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Thursday, October 20, 2016

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Fire destroys Crystal Beach homes **2**



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SUBMITTED PHOTO/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

On Saturday, the Town of Fort Erie hosted Plant-a-Tree Day at Empire Loyalist Park in Stevensville, made possible through a \$25,000 contribution from CN EcoConnections – From the Ground Up program. Members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council and volunteers are pictured in this photo. From left is Jade VanNatter, Laurisa Nemeth, Kennedy Overholt, Theodora Mollicone, Mayor Wayne Redekop, Craig Amadio, Susan Jovanovic and Emily Thomas. See page 9.

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# Damage raised to \$3-million for Crystal Beach cottage fires

TONY RICCIUTO  
Postmedia Network

A fieldstone fireplace is all that remains of the cottage where Judy Tannenhaus and her family called home for more than 50 years.

"We are all crying about this," said Tannenhaus who drove in from Buffalo on Tuesday morning so that she could take a few photos of the charred remains.

"My parents bought the cottage in 1964 and it remained in our family until Memorial Day of May 2016 when it was sold to some people in Toronto," she said. "We have some wonderful memories of this cottage. I was raised here, my kids were raised here and my grandchildren were raised here."

Early Monday morning at about 3 a.m., fire caused more than \$3-million in damages to four lakefront cottages on Erie Road near Beachwood Avenue in Crystal Beach.

Damage was initially pegged at about \$2-million, but that has now been raised to about \$3-million.

Two of the cottages in the middle were fully engulfed in flames and collapsing when firefighters from the Fort Erie Fire Department arrived on scene.

One of those cottages is where Tannenhaus recalls her father taking immaculate care of the property and even doing some of the stone work in the fireplace and near the entrance of the driveway.

"Even though it is no



NINE DIBATTISTA/POST MEDIA NETWORK

Three cottages were destroyed, and another one was damaged by an early morning fire on Monday in Crystal Beach.

longer in our family, it was devastating to see this," said Tannenhaus, who was away hiking in the Adirondack Mountains when she received word from a cousin on Monday and learned about the fire.

It took 42 firefighters about an hour and a half to get the fire under control and extinguished. The cottages belong to seasonal residents and no one was inside the cottages at the time of the fire. No one was injured as a result of the incident.

"This was a wonderful,

magical place for us. It was loved and every moment up here was special. No one can take our memories away," said Tannenhaus. "The fireplace was the heart and it's the only thing left. It brought me to my knees. I cried for a long time, and then I started walking around. This cottage was good to us and it was sad to have it go out of our family but my father is gone and we ended up with a cottage that we no longer really used in the summer. I'm just glad no one was hurt."

On Tuesday, many motorists pulled over to the side of the road so they could get a better look at the damage. One of them was John Horvath, a retired contractor who did work on the property.

"I put a kitchen in for them, also added a bathroom on the second floor and insulated the attic and the walls," said Horvath. "This was my winter work. The father was a terrific guy and I had been recommended to them by another customer."

Fort Erie Fire Chief Larry Coplen said the Office of the

Ontario Fire Marshal has been in to investigate, but at this point they are still trying to determine the cause of the fire.

"There are no red flags that we're finding, but given the significant damage it's difficult to pinpoint something," said Coplen.

"The fire definitely started in one of the two central cottages, but we haven't been able to say which one," said Coplen. "The fire had obviously been burning for quite some time prior to it being noticed and us arriving on

scene."

The chief said someone in the area smelled smoke and heard some noises so they went outside to investigate and spotted the fire.

Coplen said credit goes to the volunteer firefighters who did a great job bringing the fire under control.

"They were able to stop the fire from extending. It could have taken out a whole row of houses very easily had they not performed a very good stop," he said.

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Daryl Wells Jr.

FACEBOOK PHOTO

## 'He lived for racing'

**RAY SPITERI**  
Postmedia Network

Daryl Wells Jr., the unforgettable voice that blared over the speakers at the Fort Erie Race Track for more than 30 years, has died.

He was 56.

"He was an amazing father and man who touched everyone in some special way," said his son, Brandon. "He always had a smile on his face. Everyone just loved him so much."

Born in Hamilton and raised in Mississauga, Wells Jr. started calling races in 1976.

He'd always wanted to follow in his father's footsteps. And he did.

His late father, Daryl Sr., was a race announcer from the late 1950s until the mid '80s, and was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in August after being nominated by Wells Jr. in the spring.

Wells Jr. stepped aside as race announcer at the track in 2010. He was also the facility's spokes-

man.

"He loved the racetrack. He lived for racing," said Brandon, adding his father was actually up at Ajax Downs this week doing commentary for quarter-horse races.

Long-time trainer Nick Gonzalez said he knew Wells Jr. for about 30 years.

"When I first came around the racetrack, obviously his father was the track announcer and an institution, and I knew Daryl (Jr.) from his younger days, from when he was a local guy here in Fort Erie," said Gonzalez.

"We both lived in town for a long time, and he was, obviously, our track announcer."

He said Wells Jr. was popular with all sides of the industry, whether it be with fans, jockeys, trainers, owners or back-stretch workers.

"He fit in. He was like a front-side person, but like a real back-side race tracker at the same time," said Gonzalez.

"He had common bonds, and common interests with race

trackers on the back side. Not only was he an institution as a racetrack announcer, and a darn, darn good one, and was well-liked on the front-side of the racetrack, he had a great number of friends on the back side here that he was closely associated with."

He said Wells Jr. was the "same kind of guy" on and off the track.

"He was one of those down-to-earth, likable guys. He never, ever used his position, and his Fort Erie fame — he didn't need to use it as anything special because he was just that kind of guy where he was just liked by everybody."

Gonzalez said he plans to contact track officials to organize some form of recognition for Wells Jr. during the season's last day of racing, scheduled for Tuesday.

"It would be fitting to do it if we could work it out."

rspiteri@postmedia.com  
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MIKE DIBATTISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Mithc Bedard is at work on the new polystyrene foam densifier at the Niagara Recycling centre in Niagara Falls. The new machine compresses large volumes of polystyrene foam collected from blue boxes into stackable blocks that can be turned into new products.

## New recycling technology launched in Niagara

**MARYANNE FIRTH**  
 Postmedia Network

The introduction of more than \$2 million in new technology has boosted efficiency at Niagara's recycling centre.

Two new pieces of machinery, a polystyrene foam densifier and a fibre optical sorting system, are being used to improve the way materials are sorted and processed at the Kent Avenue facility in Niagara Falls.

The equipment was installed earlier this year but only formally announced by the Region Monday.

"The new technology will enhance Niagara's reputation as a municipal leader in recycling," said Regional Chairman Alan Caslin, who called the improvements a "significant investment" by council.

He expressed pride in Niagara being the first community in Ontario to introduce this technology in its municipally-owned recycling facility.

"These investments demonstrate Niagara Region's

commitment to making sure our environment stays safe.

It also exemplifies our willingness to invest in innovative new technology that will reduce costs for Niagara residents."

The foam densifier is being used to compress large volumes of styrofoam, collected both curbside in blue boxes and at regional drop-off depots.

The loose foam, first hand-sorted by workers to help remove any contaminants and misplaced plastic, is condensed into stackable 45-kilogram (100-pound) blocks. The blocks significantly reduce the space required to transport the material, which is used to create new products such as picture frames, crown moulding and office supplies.

Every densified load is the equivalent of removing from the road 35 to 40 trucks filled with loose foam.

Niagara Recycling CEO Norm Kraft said the densifier is currently processing about 270 kilograms (600 pounds) of polystyrene a day.

There's plenty of room to

increase the facility's tonnage in the future, he added.

Niagara Region was assisted through partnerships in covering the densifier's \$236,000 cost.

It received a \$17,000 grant from the Canadian Plastics Industry Association and a \$23,812 grant from the Waste Diversion Ontario Continuous Improvement Fund.

Carol Hochu, president and CEO of the CPPIA, praised the Region for taking steps to improve recycling processes and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Based on initial collection results to date, she said it's estimated that Niagara will divert from landfills "the annual equivalent volume of three Olympic-sized swimming pools of undensified polystyrene foam."

Waste Diversion Ontario also contributed \$1 million to the \$2.5-million fibre optical sorting system.

The equipment uses near infrared technology to detect and separate different types of recyclable materials, including newspaper, cardboard and plastic.

More efficient sorting results in higher quality newspaper with greater value being produced from the recycled materials. This, in turn, nets higher revenues for the facility, Caslin said.

Greater recovery of cardboard and boxboard also improves revenues, as those materials yield \$30 to \$40 more per ton than newsprint.

Those additional dollars are used to offset the cost of delivering waste management programs to Niagara residents and businesses.

Kraft said the sorter has reduced the amount of contaminants within the recycled materials being sent to a local mill to 15 per cent from 30 per cent, ultimately adding to the Region's bottom line.

The goal, he added, is to see that number reach 10 per cent in the future.

No jobs were lost or created with the introduction of the new technology.

 mfrth@postmedia.com  
 Twitter: @mfrthStandard

# Peace Bridge toll for cars to increase in 2018

SARAH FERGUSON  
Fort Erie Times

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2018, motorists will be required to pay \$3.75 in U.S. currency to cross the Peace Bridge into Canada. Ron Rienas, Peace Bridge Authority manager, said the cost in Canadian funds will depend on the exchange rate at that time.

The Peace Bridge Authority authorized the 75-cent increase, which will only apply to passen-

ger vehicles, on Friday. The last time the toll increased was in 2007.

"By the time the new toll takes effect, it will have been 11 years since the last increase. If we increased the toll every year for inflation, it would be about 75 cents," Rienas said.

The increase in the toll will also match the tolls of other border crossings in Niagara.

"As of Nov. 1, the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission will charge \$3.75 (to cross

into Canada) and there will be no E-ZPass discount," Rienas said.

In addition to the toll increase in 2018, the authority will also discount its 10 per cent discount for use of E-ZPass because of the cost of the program and lack of users.

"A lot of people don't understand E-ZPass is a service that costs us to provide. It's a premium service that gets people through the tolls quicker," Rienas said.

The program costs about \$500,000 a year to operate and has seen a minimal increase in users over the years.

The program has not increased in terms of usage, Rienas said.

"The number of people who use E-ZPass has been stuck at about 32 to 33 per cent of traffic. That's less than a third of our customers who use it. Very few of those customers are Canadian."

According to Rienas, the

increase in revenue will help pay for the bridge's \$185 million rehabilitation project, which is set to be completed over the next five years.

The rehabilitation of the bridge includes the deck replacement which began earlier this year.

The Peace Bridge Authority is a self-funded entity that doesn't receive federal, provincial or state funding and relies on the toll revenue it receives from travellers to pay for

the upkeep and construction of plaza and customs facilities on both sides of the border.

"A lot of people think it's a bridge toll but it's a facilities toll. Under federal legislation, we are required to provide facilities for Canada Customs at no cost to the federal government. We are required to maintain these buildings, and heat them," Rienas said.

"That costs about \$2 million a year," he added.

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# Comment

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The  
**Fort Erie Times**

Peter Conradi regional editor  
Sarah Ferguson editor

## Point of View

### Women don't fare well in Niagara

**W**hat does it mean to be a woman in Niagara?

A new think-tank report on the status of women in Canada suggests that Niagara is one of the worst places to be if you are female.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives released a study recently titled "The Best and Worst Places to be a Woman in Canada."

The study compared data on economics, poverty, political leadership and safety to rank 25 Canadian cities and regions. As these things typically go, St. Catharines and Niagara (which are lumped together in the data) do not rank well at all.

The St. Catharines-Niagara area ranked 19 out of 25 communities overall.

We ranked 16 out of 25 in economic security for women, nine in education, nine in health, two in security and a lowly 23 in leadership.

I've argued before that the tired political and business narrative of Niagara being a "great" community — sometimes even the "greatest" in Canada — is mostly jingoistic hogwash, and this report confirms that suspicion.

It has been well known for a long time that how well a community does it directly and inexorably

linked to how well women do. If women are unemployed, if income inequality between men and women is drastic, if women do not hold positions of leadership, families, businesses and the community itself will never achieve what it otherwise could.

There are two issues in this report that demands immediate attention from our political and business sectors — economic security and leadership.

On the economic front, the report says the gap between men's and women's employment levels are smaller than average, as is the wage gap. And you might think that sounds good.

But when you take it into context, these factors are not even the thinnest of silver linings.

Wages are low in Niagara compared to the nation, as are unemployment rates, particularly for women.

"Women's levels of full time employment are the lowest of any of the 25 cities included here, with 36% of women holding full time jobs," the report says. "Women's poverty rates are high than average in St. Catharines and the gap in men's and women's levels of poverty is larger than average."

Women who are working are earning 75% of what men make

for the same work, the report says.

It is worth remembering that women are often the primary bread winners and care givers in Niagara homes, meaning if poverty rates are high for women, it is high for families which in turn means a lot of Niagara children are growing up in poverty.

The data suggests this isn't an issue of legions of uneducated women living in Niagara. The report ranks the region in the middle of the educational pack, with women in Niagara more likely to have completed high school, college or university than men. This means women have qualifications, but either there are no jobs or women are not being hired.

The upshot of this is obvious — women with qualifications, skills and ambition are going to leave Niagara for greener pastures, and our community is the poorer for it. The consequences of this kind of brain drain are long term and far reaching. As people of talent leave, it becomes harder to retain and attract other qualified people. It then becomes harder to attract investment in a community.

This problem is compounded by the other sobering metric in the report: leadership. Women hold few

positions of political influence in Niagara.

In the business community, women fare slightly better, with 33 percent of all senior management positions held by women.

So what we have in Niagara is women being underemployed (in an already anemic economy), where their educational qualifications do not translate into meaningful work, and where they have little to no influence in the political life of the region.

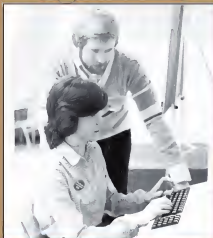
In words of one syllable: This is bad.

In a few months time we are going to have to sit through another round of tedious and pointless state of the region and state of the cities addresses from mayors and the regional chair. If I was a betting man, this very serious matter will not get a mention.

But it should. For Niagara to achieve anything other than lasting mediocrity, it needs to be an engaging place for all of its citizens. If half our population is being left behind economically and politically, Niagara's future will remain much as its present condition — a place of unrealized potential where dreams are left in limbo.

—GRANT LAFLECHE,  
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

## Do you remember?



Our thanks to Alicya Zanchin, Bob Tripp and an anonymous caller for giving us the correct name of Ken Gibbins, the teacher from Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School in last week's photo. Please call if you recognize the student in that photo. This week's photo taken in 1981 has the name Cheryl Sherk Mangan on the back. If you can tell us which one she or what these women are getting ready to paint, please call the Fort Erie Historical Museum at 905-894-5322 or send us an e-mail [museum@forterie.ca](mailto:museum@forterie.ca)

# Women inspiring women at leadership event

**CHERYL CLOCK**  
standard staff

She was a day old when her grandpa bought her a dirt bike. A red-and-white Yamaha PW50 mini-bike, the back fender engraved with her name: Jessica Lee.

She figures her grandfather had an ulterior motive with having the bike personalized. Even if her mother wanted to have it returned to Clare's Cycle in Fenwick, she couldn't.

Jessica Kline, 31, was five years old the first time she rode it in the backyard of her parent's Ridgeway home. The memory, captured on VHS tape. Jessica has watched it a few times, laughing at her father jogging beside the bike, and her younger self buzzing with unsteady enthusiasm around their property.

Each time she watched it, Jessica has fought the urge to yell at her five-year-old self, "Give the engine more gas."

Ever since that day, her enthusiasm for bikes has grown.

She rides a white 2008 Suzuki SV650, a V-twin engine bike that's both quick and easy to handle. She bought it off a woman from Ottawa, who had advertised it for sale. She'd had a baby and the bike had sat idle in her garage for a couple years.

Jessica likes riding it on winding roads.

"It's freedom," she says. "You take on this confidence whenever you ride."

"It allows you to express yourself."

There will be one of the women speakers at the third annual Niagara Leadership Summit for Women, Saturday, Oct. 22 at Brock University.

Hosted by the YWCA Niagara Region, the summit is a full-day conference to inspire, build community connections and recognize women's leadership in Niagara.

There will be a variety of workshops, discussions and guest speakers on topics that include: leadership, compassion fatigue, financial literacy and Jessica's discussion on breaking gender stereotypes and women in motorsports.

Riding motorcycles has given her confidence. She feels more connected to the road than in a vehicle with four wheels. It



SARAH PETERSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Jessica Kline with the mini dirt bike given to her by her late grandfather.

commands her attention, and releases stress. "You're alone in your helmet," she says. "It gives you time to think, or not to think."

Riding bikes is a powerful experience, as if she's wearing a superwoman cape. "Now I can conquer the world," she says.

"It's very liberating."

She has earned two university degrees — psychology from the University of Guelph and social work from the University of Waterloo — and works part-time as a social worker. She has also developed a motorsport, automotive and outdoor staffing company, called Backwoods Promotions, that provides staff to promote adventures and products based on lived experience. It takes her to shows and events in Toronto and across North America.

She's also works to promote and mentor girls racing snowmobiles, and an all-

girls endurocross motorcycle racing team. She has been a Big Sister for six years.

Madi Fuller, a 20-year-old political science student at Brock University will be another speaker. As advocacy co-ordinator for the university's student union, she deals with on-campus issues from transit to mental health.

She will be speaking about the need to educate men about healthy masculinity, in order to promote a strong culture of consent on campus.

Consenting to sexual activity is simple. Or, at least, it should be, she says. A voluntary, enthusiastic, mutual, ongoing and explicit consent is required. Every time. Not a consent that's implied on the basis of silence or previous sexual history.

Simply put, no really does mean no.

"When a girl says no, she really means no," says Madi. "And guys, when a girl says

no, don't make her feel uncomfortable about it."

No does not mean try again later. Or she really means yes. Or she was drinking with me therefore she wants to sleep with me. Or any other twisted, self-serving definition.

It's about respecting choice, and consent does not have to be awkward. Try. "Are you OK with this?" she says.

Guys need to speak up and intervene when they see a bad situation developing with a guy friend. It's OK to break the so-called "bro-code," a set of unwritten rules among guys that includes the understanding that anything he does in drunken state is justified, including taking home a girl who is obviously not in a state to give consent. "Don't be a bystander," she says. Use the words: "Are you sure this is a good idea?"

"That's not cool." Contrary to consent, is a

What: Niagara Leadership Summit for Women. Hosted by the YWCA Niagara Region, the summit is a full day conference designed to inspire, build community connections and recognize women's leadership in Niagara.

When: Saturday, Oct. 22.

Where: Brock University.

Cost: \$15.

Details: Registration and information at [www.niagaralsw.ca](http://www.niagaralsw.ca)

"hookup" culture on campuses, that make casual sexual encounters without long-term or emotional commitment an accepted norm.

And dating apps like Tinder only perpetuate the culture. Tinder is an app where you submit a short bio and photos of yourself, then are presented with photos of other potential matches based on your preferences. If you're not interested, you swipe left. If you are, swipe right. If that person has also swiped right on you, you're declared a match and encouraged to start a conversation. Understand that a text

conversation is not unlike a verbal conversation.

"People can be made to feel uncomfortable over texts," she says.

Many guys think that if a girl has signed up for the app, that consent is implied. Not the case, says Madi.

She hopes to foster a healthy masculinity on campus, making it a place where guys don't equate sleeping with a girl as "winning" and upping their "alpha status" among their friends, she says.

Cclock@postmedia.com

# Tattoo artist to share history of tattooing

**T**attooing is an exciting thought for some people, but a scary one for others.

On Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Centennial branch of the library, Jennette Connors from A Tat of Class in the Bridgeburg Spa will provide images and information to set jittery nerves at rest. Connors will talk about the history of tattooing, tattoo designs and current practice, and more. Connors has been a painter and a tattoo artist for many years.

There are numerous books in the library collection on this subject, including three collections of tattoo designs, two works on the history of tattooing, a Start & Run a Tattoo and Body Piercing Studio by



Kurtis Mueller and fiction for adults, teens and tweens by Melissa Marr, Shiloh Walker, Richard Scrimger and Jamie McGuire.

On Monday evenings at 7 p.m. at the Centennial branch, Storymakers is an opportunity for creative young writers ages seven to 15 to develop new writing skills, such as plot arcs, character development, and descriptive language, create new pieces of work, and try creative writing techniques.

We'll work towards pub-

lishing our own mini zine to share with family and friends. Storymakers will run through Nov. 28. A \$5 fee for the remainder of the eight-week session includes a notebook and other supplies.

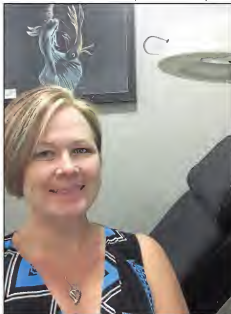
One of the most important tools for a job seeker is a well-written, fresh resume, but sometimes it's hard to know where to start and what to include. Resume workshops with the Job Gym are now being planned for the Centennial branch. On Wednesday, Nov. 9 from 1 to 3 p.m., Chris Sergense from the Job Gym will be at the library to help job seekers of any age create their own resume. This workshop, a partnership of the Library and the Job Gym, is free, but please call either the library or the

Job Gym to register. There are over two dozen books on resume writing in the library collection.

There are just a few days left in Public Library Week, and also for the best bargain we can offer! Food for Fines is a popular tradition that benefits you, the library and the community.

From now through Saturday, October 22 at 5 p.m., during library hours each branch will accept non-perishable food items in lieu of current or past overdue fines, at the rate of \$5 per item, up to a maximum of \$50. Items are then donated to area food pantries.

This Saturday, Oct. 22, the movie *Pokemon 3* will be screened at the Crystal Ridge branch, starting at 2:30 p.m. The Therapy



Jennette Connors

Tails dogs will be making their monthly visit to the Centennial branch on the same day from 2 to 3 p.m.

*Amy Roebuck is the community services coordinator at the Fort Erie Public Library.*

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# Town plants trees to fight emerald ash borer

KRIS DURÉ

Special to the Fort Erie Times

Every little bit helps. On Saturday, the Town of Fort Erie hosted Plant-a-Tree Day at Empire Loyalist Park in Stevensville, made possible through a \$25,000 contribution from CN EcoConnections - From the Ground Up

program.

This amount allowed for 200 trees to be added to the park replacing ones around town that have been removed due to the emerald ash borer, a wood-boring beetle that has infested trees in Niagara and parts of North America.

Mayor Wayne Redekop

was one of the many participants who turned soil on Saturday morning.

"It was a great event," said Redekop.

On Monday, council approved a staff report detailing the cost to date of combating the invasive insect and the havoc it has wreaked around town.

A total of \$263,334 has been spent on routine maintenance to trees while \$248,972 has been spent on the removal of trees.

There are 3,500 ash trees in Fort Erie's municipal inventory, according to the report.

"We have the largest tree canopy in the entire region," said Redekop.

It is estimated that with an annual budget of almost \$342,000 - it will cost the Town nearly \$2.2 million over the next six years to fight the emerald ash borer.

Fort Erie was one of 31 communities from across the country to receive funding through the CN program, which has an objective to

promote community sustainability, through the greening of municipal and community properties across Canada.

The Town's arborist has estimates that all the true ash trees in Fort Erie are infested with EAB totalling approximately 16,500 trees (3,500 town-owned; 13,000 privately-owned).

NP

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## Health Corner

### Digital Everything and Digital Dentistry

One thing that amazes me is how now everything is digital. Digital goes to music, movies, pictures, and even books! Do you remember a CD player? A few years back, having a nice looking thin CD player was the coolest thing. Also I am thinking in a few years later, people won't remember paper books anymore.

Even dentistry is going digital. It is not new that many dental offices now have digital x-rays. It is also very common now that many dentists work with digital charts. But do you know now we can make a digital crown?

Last week, I discussed the need for crown restorations for structurally weak teeth. However, I did not mention that conventional crown procedure is not the easiest job. For those who remembered getting a crown, it is a bit of ordeal. First a dentist has to prepare a tooth for porcelain. Then, the dentist takes a rubber impression or two (often tastes quite interesting) to capture the details of the prepared tooth.

Then the patient receives a temporary crown glued with temporary cement. After that, the dentist can load the image to a computer and design the crown to be fabricated by a lab technician. Then the dentist glues the crown to the prepared tooth.



Dr. John Inigo

It is a very important procedure but do you know that now many crowns can be designed and fabricated digitally within an hour after the preparation rather than 2 weeks? The technology is called a E4D. Let me explain how this works for patients and dentists.

Rather than taking impression, the digital video camera is used to capture the image. Then the dentist can load the image to a computer and design the crown exactly how she or he wants. Then the file goes to a milling unit (I called it a robotic lathe) and then the crown is fabricated often within 30 min. Sounds too far-fetched? Well, as you can imagine, most patients who see the E4D crown procedures for the first time, are blown away by the technology.

Sometimes it is scary how much more technology will be available for dentistry. Well, actually it is very exciting.

Dr. John Inigo is a practicing general dentist in Fort Erie and Ridgeway, ON. He can be reached at Inigo Bertie Dentistry, 905.871.2903 or Inigo Ridgeway Dentistry, 905.894.5555. For further information and discussion, please visit his office at [www.inigodentistry.com](http://www.inigodentistry.com)

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# Halloween bash to raise funds for cancer research

**SARAH FERGUSON**  
Fort Erie Times

Team Kelsey and Jace Wars have teamed up to host a Halloween bash.

Mashing the Monster, an adult Halloween costume party, has been planned for Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Fort Erie Golf Club at 8 p.m.

"The name Mashing the Monster is referred to as cancer, as in I want to mash it. That is why we are holding this event, we want to mash cancer," said Lana Hill.

The proceeds from the dance will be donated to the McMaster University Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute.

Fort Erie's Kelsey Hill, who lost a 15-month battle with a rare and aggressive form of brain cancer, wanted to do something to help other children fighting the disease.

Together with her friends and family, Hill organized a number of events to raise money to help families with loved ones who have cancer. The committee of friends and family called themselves Team Kelsey.

Five years after her death,

Team Kelsey continues to carry on in Kelsey's memory, and has raised more than \$120,000 to help families with children that have cancer.

Jace Russell, of Port Colborne, was only 14 months old when he was diagnosed with a brain tumour. When Jace was well on the way to recovery, Jace's father, Aaron Russell, created Jace Wars, a Star Wars-themed charity to raise awareness of childhood cancer and funds for research as a way to give back to the community.

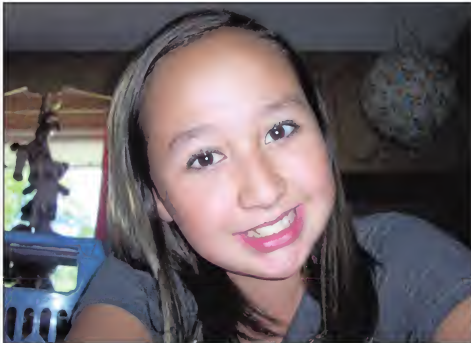
"Jace had a brain tumour as well, and now he is better. Team Kelsey has decided to join forces with Jace Wars," Hill said.

"This is the first time we are organizing the event and we wanted to try something new, something different for adults."

There will be a DJ, pizza, and prizes for best dressed couple, scariest costume and funniest costume. A designated driver service will also be available.

For tickets, which cost \$20 per person, call 905-382-1611 or 289-836-9565.

saferguson@postmedia.com



Kelsey Hill

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Frank Saravalle from Thorold Auto Recycling with a wrecked van that they hope will get the distracted driving message across.

# Alarming numbers for distracted driving

**BILL SAWCHUK**  
Postmedia Network

There was something about the wrecked van that caught Frank Saravalle's eye.

Under contract with insurance companies, Thorold Auto Parts and Recycling picks up totalled vehicles all over southern Ontario.

Saravalle asked his tow-truck driver what happened.

"Texting and driving" was the answer.

That started him thinking. "This texting and driving and distracted driving — it is worse than drinking and driving," Saravalle said. "Not everybody drinks, but everybody has a phone."

"I'm driving home, and I see people whizz by me, and they are looking down at their phone. They are close

to the car in front of them, and I cringe. It's awful."

Then he had a brainstorm. Maybe there was something he could do about it. Saravalle has tow trucks driving up and down the QEW all day. Why not put on the back a reminder not to text and drive?

To take it a step further, he would put a sign and use the company van to illustrate the consequences. His business has a social media presence. Why not use that?

He had a simple message. His auto recycling firm wants the business — but not this way.

"I feel I have some responsibility being in the industry," he said. "We see this stuff first-hand out here. Let's share it."

The post received 100,000 hits. I was shocked. I usually get 100 hits on a post."

"We made a commitment to this. We will put it on the back of every truck, so people are constantly reminded of it."

Niagara Regional Police agree with the message. They have their own message at the top of their website.

It warns texting, distracted drivers are 23 times more likely to be in a collision or a near-collision and includes a hashtag #putdownthephone.

"You can stand on the street corner every day and watch people drive by with their phones to their eyes or in their hands," police Chief Jeff McGuire said. "The fines are up close to \$500. You would hope that would have an impact on some people."

The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police runs campaigns across the province. There are also television commercials.

McGuire said his school resource officers talk about the issue with students in Niagara's high schools.

"Education and enforcement are the only two tools we have," he said.

"Frankly, I don't know what the answer is. The fight against drinking and driving took decades and is still going on."

"Stupidity will never be completely eradicated."

## Fort Erie Sting Greater Fort Erie Youth Soccer Club

# GREATER FORT ERIE YOUTH SOCCER CLUB

### 2017 TRAVEL SOCCER TEAM TRY OUTS

The Greater Fort Erie Youth Soccer Club would like to invite you to participate in one of our Travel Soccer Try Outs in the upcoming weeks. The club has had a long history of success with our Travel Programs and this year's commitment to soccer development will be no different. Our primary goal this year is to build a strong U8 – U14 Program that we can benchmark for years to come. There are **absolutely no fees** for trying out in Fort Erie unlike almost every other youth club in the Niagara Soccer Association.

Below is a list of teams and the associated try out sessions. Please ensure that you are coming to the appropriate age group. Age is based on the year your child was born (please see the lower table). As you can see, we are also in the process of evaluating our coaching staff. If you are interested in volunteering as a coaching or assistance coach, please let the club know as we are always looking for new talent! All coaching volunteers will be given on field training, equipment and on-line resources to assist with practices and development within the structure of Ontario Soccer Association Long Term Player Development model.



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long term player development

Year of Birth	Division	Girls Head Coach	Boys Head Coach
2009	U8	TBD	TBD
2008	U9	Katie Morin	Jennifer Pennell-Ajje
2007	U10	TBD	Simon Reeves
2006	U11	Anja Willson	Jesse Fraser
2005	U12	TBD	Dave Howell
2004	U13	Simon Reeves	TBD
2003	U14	TBD	Pat Young

### Greater Fort Erie Youth Soccer Club - Fall Travel Try Out Schedule

Division	Oct 21	Oct 22	Oct 23
U8 Girls		12-1pm	
U8 Boys		12-1pm	
U9 Girls	7-8pm		
U9 Boys	7-8pm		
U10 Girls	6-7pm		
U10 Boys	6-7pm		
U11 Girls		1-2pm	
U11 Boys		1-2pm	
U12 Girls			9-10am
U12 Boys			9-10am
U13 Girls			10-11:30am
U13 Boys			10-11:30am
U14 Girls			11am-12:30pm
U14 Boys			11am-12:30pm

All Try Outs will take place at the Niagara Falls Sportsplex at 3710 Simkins Ave, Niagara Falls. All participants must have soccer cleats, shin pads and a refreshment. They will be participating in both drills and scrimmages. In the event that your associated coach has not been selected, the clubs Technical Director, Mr. John Sansano and other experienced coaches, will be facilitating the tryout session.

This fall there will be only **ONE TRY OUT day** and **FINAL TRY OUTS** will continue in the **SPRING**. Coaches do have the ability to make cuts this fall. The participants that are selected to continue may participate in our Winter Training Program. Some teams may or may not be participating in the winter training program. More information regarding the Winter Training Program will be communicated by the technical director and coaching staff following the try out process.

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CONTINUED > PAGE 45

## Latino Canadian Club to host Halloween dance



SUBMITTED PHOTO/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Members of the Latino Canadian Club of Fort Erie invite the community to attend the first annual Masquerade and Costume Latin Party at the Sanctuary Centre for the Arts in Ridgeway on Oct. 29. The all-ages event will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance, or \$7 at the door. For more information call 905-871-9782. Pictured from left, are Latino Canadian Club Board of Directors members Renato Chavez, Gonzalo Rivera, Carey Ayala, Guillermo Botero, Denis Jose Hernandez-Galeano, Isabel Medellin, Yaneth Gonzalez, Monica Rivera, and Luisa Maria Galeano. Absent is Luis Carranza.

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Niagara entrepreneur Cyndi LoForti-Lepp was one of hundreds of people who attended the Women in Niagara Council's annual Women in Business Awards on Friday.

## Niagara women: 'We need a level playing field'

**JOHN LAW**  
postmedia network

On the same week a report ranked St. Catharines/Niagara near the bottom of major metropolitan areas for women to work and live, many of the region's top businesswomen had reason to celebrate Friday.

The Women in Niagara Council's annual Women in Business Awards recognized some of the area's top female entrepreneurs in a region that finished dead last in full-time employment for women, according to a report by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Of the 25 cities ranked overall, only Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary, Oshawa and Windsor fared worse. The top three cities were Victoria, Kingston and London.

While Niagara women are well educated, ranking

ninth, it's a matter of finding local opportunities, says Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce president Mishka Balsom.

"Women have to leave Niagara to pursue those careers," she says, referring to an upcoming economic summit Oct. 27 that will look at the "myths and realities" of the job sector in Niagara.

"The question is, do we have enough people for the jobs that are here? Or do we have the jobs but not the people that can actually fill those jobs? It's a situation we need to get ahead of."

Niagara-on-the-Lake interior designer Cyndi LoForti-Lepp says it's "key" for more women to get involved.

"Whether that's in politics, in the municipal level, regional level ... we have to be involved to make change," she says. "We have to drive that forward."

"The reasons women

have been successful that I know and work alongside of is because we have been involved. We haven't sat on the sidelines and complained, we've said, 'Excuse me, you need to pay attention to us.' We need a level playing field."

The report ranked Niagara 23rd in leadership, citing a lack of women in political positions. In St. Catharines, women make up only 15 percent of city council.

"It's always a very real challenge for women to be involved in politics because of our commitment to our family," LoForti-Lepp says.

"However, we still need to make the effort to get involved."

For singer Juliet Dunn, co-founder of the Niagara Jazz Festival, Niagara has been nothing but positive.

"I just kind of stopped in Niagara," she says.

"I always wanted to pur-

sue Montreal because I lived in France and I'm bilingual, and when people say 'Why don't you live in Montreal?... well, because things are going pretty good here'."

She finds the area flush with "strong women's groups," but agrees there needs to be more women on Niagara councils.

"More of a 50/50 than a 20/80 split," she says.

Caron Strauss-Blom, owner of Citrus Boutique in St. Catharines, disagrees with the report.

"I am strongly supported by local women," she says.

"I so don't agree with (the report). You've got to work at it, it's not easy. We have a lot of social media and whatnot, but in order to get you have to give."

Rhonda Taylor, director of member service with Pen-Financial Credit Union, finds the opportunities in Niagara are actually attracting peo-

Winners of the Women in Business Awards

Held at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Niagara Falls Friday, Community Spirit Award: Cathy Berkhout-Bosse, My Pelham

Business of Science & Technology Award: Sandra Buffett, Jordan Engineering  
Business Leadership Award: Carolynne Watts, General Motors

Emerging Business Award: Allie Hughes, Hughes & Co.

Cultural Arts Award: Juliet Dunn, Niagara Jazz Festival  
Social Enterprise Award: Stacy Elia, Grimsby Benevolent Fund

Excellence in Tourism Award: Karen Whitley, 13 Street Winery  
Lifetime Achievement Award: Mary Turner, Canadian Tire Bank

ple from outside the region, in contrast to what the report suggests.

"Once people get here and see what there is to offer and the great opportunities, while limited, that it is a great place," she says. "You have to get a bit of fight in you to make sure that we're relevant."

Balsom says the factors that contributed to Niagara's low ranking "have been there for a long time," and the cul-

ture won't change unless women occupy more leadership roles.

"If there's a balance around the board table, if there's a balance in an organization, it usually reflects in the decision-making," she says. "There are very progressive boards that adhere to that. We at the GNCC are very close to that, close to 50/50, the best we've ever been."

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# Fairness adviser eyeing insurance contract

**MARYANNE FIRTH**  
Postmedia Network

The fairness adviser is in and the microscope is on.

Since regional council approved hiring Purchasing Consultants International to review a questionable request for proposals regarding Niagara Region's insurance and risk management services, the firm has hit the ground running.

Stephen Bauld said work is well underway to review the procurement that saw a substantive objection filed by one of its bidders.

PCI's president and CEO said materials pertaining to the RFP process were picked up last week, just days after his firm was brought on board.

"It was a lot of information," Bauld said, adding staff will go through the documentation in addition to conducting interviews with proponents, staff and anyone else involved in the contract award, including consultants.

"You basically go through the whole process to make sure it was done in a fair, open and transparent manner."

Bauld's firm will be taking a close look at the process regional staff undertook when issuing the RFP and ultimately deciding which bidder was the winning proposal.

It will be reviewed to determine whether the process followed the Municipal Act. As well, the Region's pur-

chasing policies, procedures and bylaws will be reviewed to determine whether all rules and regulations of government procurement were followed, he said.

Asked about the comparison between a fairness adviser and integrity commissioner, Bauld said there are subtle differences between the two.

Fairness advisers are often brought in following a process complaint, often regarding large contracts issued by municipalities or other government agencies, he said.

"There are many words for it. Fairness commissioner. Integrity commissioner is a little bit different, but more and more municipalities are having these integral roles."

Regional council opted to remove its integrity commissioner in February 2015 as a cost-saving measure. The role provides oversight of councilors.

Bauld said many communities bring a fairness adviser on board prior to procurement of a large contract as a preventive measure, providing oversight throughout the process.

"There are so many things that could go wrong in a municipal setting, but especially with big construction projects," he said. "It could be a multitude of different things, specifications, it could be addendums that go out. There are just so many areas where the process could go off the tracks."

That's why the role is becoming more common-

place, both at larger municipalities and among smaller communities that may not have the expertise to oversee a large-scale procurement, Bauld said.

Niagara, he stressed, is not alone in its need for the service.

"Government procurement, I don't think you can turn to any municipality right across Canada without finding some issues."

After going over the Region's insurance procurement, PCI will determine whether staff strayed from the appropriate process or if the RFP was handled as it should have been.

Questions regarding the insurance RFP pertained to an addendum issued two weeks after the closing day and its handling, with submissions sent in by e-mail instead of in a secure manner.

If there were issues in the process, recommendations to address them will be brought forward by PCI to regional council in an effort to ensure similar problems don't recur.

A report outlining the firm's findings will be presented to council at its Oct. 27 meeting.

"There's a sense of urgency on this one to get it done by the end of the month," Bauld said, adding a tight timeline was given as the Region's existing insurance contract expires Nov. 1.

But the time constraints are not an issue, he said. "We have to work under



Bob Gale



Alan Caslin

these type of timelines in a number of situations for a variety of reasons. Our company is big enough that we have resources and assets to do it, so there's no problem there."

Regional Chairman Alan Caslin said the review is an opportunity to not only see exactly what took place with this particular procurement, but to also identify areas in the process that "we can tighten up, whether that be from a staff or council perspective to ensure that people are confident in the procurement system we have at the Region."

He has met with the consultants following council's contract approval and is confident

the work will be completed before the end of the month.

PCI was hired following a recommendation from Caslin, corporate services chairman David Barrick (Port Colborne) and Niagara Falls Coun. Bob Gale, who were chosen by council to narrow down the selection.

Seven prospective firms provided the Region with quotations, with PCI's proposal the lowest at \$14,152.

Gale, who brought the insurance issue forward in September, said he looks forward to reading the firm's findings and, if necessary, its recommendations.

"We want to make sure we've been fair on this," he said, adding there's a sense

of urgency to get this process reviewed given the quickly approaching insurance contract expiry date.

Once this procurement is reviewed, there's potential to again hire a fairness adviser to review the recent Humberstone landfill contract, which also received an objection from a bidder complaining about the process.

"One thing I've learned is that there are problems on every council in the province. Some worse, some better, but nobody's perfect," Gale said. "Nobody's perfect out there, so we just try to get better."

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# View the homestead of former soldier and historian

SARAH FERGUSON  
Fort Erie Times

The community is invited to explore the childhood home of Brigadier-General Ernest Alexander Cruikshank, a First World War soldier who was born in Bertie Township and died in 1938.

The home, which was built in 1853, currently belongs to the Moore family, and all of the items inside will be sold through an online auction, Toronto-based Silent Bidders Online Auction Solutions. The auction, which is already underway, continues until Thursday Oct. 27 at 6 p.m.

Monique Van Bellen, owner of the online auction that serves the Greater Ontario Area and Niagara, said the public will be able to view the home at 848 Garrison Rd. on Sunday from noon until 3:30 p.m. to view a variety of historical artefacts and antiques. "It will be open to all of the dealers, everybody," Van Bellen explained.

The house has been left empty for a period of time, and the family contacted the online auction to help downsize.

Although some artefacts were from the original homestead, the Moores were also

antique collectors.

Van Bellen said the "unique auction" is an "important piece of Canadian history."

While serving as a soldier, Cruikshank wrote a number of books on the history of Ontario, including his military history, and in 1908 he was seconded to the Public Archives of Canada as keeper of military documents. It is known that his writings of the famous book *The War of 1812* are some of the most accurate and authentic writings on the historic war that shaped Canada as a nation.

According to her research, Van Bellen said the home-

stead was also used for a period of time as a court house and the library where his portrait still hangs today is where magistrate's court was held.

His wife, Julia Cruikshank, also wrote a book, chronicling her life and love of this house and the area.

This is only the first part of this remarkable historical home, Van Bellen said.

The Moore family kept all the original artefacts attached to the house, "lovingly restored it and added their own flare."

Van Bellen said many of the furnishings in the home were part of the antique collection of Secretary of State under



SUBMITTED PHOTO/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

The childhood home of Brigadier-General Ernest Alexander Cruikshank.

Woodrow Wilson, Bainbridge Colby, and "many other pieces of interest" including furniture that belonged to Louis XV, as well as pioneer artefacts from the current owner's own ancestors from the 17th, 18th and 19th century.

"Our team spent a couple of days in the house preparing this fascinating auction and we found it charming and inviting, plus we have some new friends from the past," Van Bellen said.

For more information visit <http://silentbidders.hibid.ca>.

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## Parks commission developing vision for Queen Victoria Park

RAY SPITERI

Postmedia Network

The Niagara Parks Commission is trying to come up with a long-term vision for Queen Victoria Park and wants the public to help shape that vision.

A master plan for the area will be one of the topics up for discussion during two public information sessions.

The sessions, one today in Niagara Falls and the other Tuesday in Fort Erie, will provide an overview of some of the commission's activities and projects planned for 2016/17.

The public will have an opportunity to meet with project teams and provide their feedback to the commission.

"We're going to look at the (Queen Victoria Park) border from essentially Rapidsview parking right through to the Rainbow Bridge," said David Adames, chief operating officer for the commission.

"We're looking at future uses, people movement, connectivity, land use, those kinds of principles will be talked about. This is more about con-

sultation at this point in time."

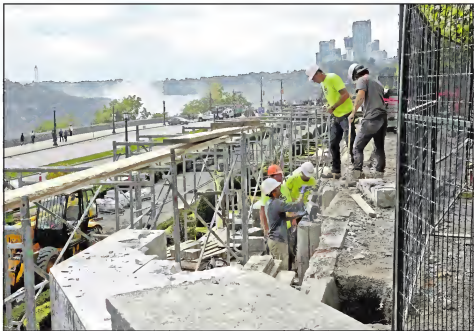
Another topic will be the \$1.4-million restoration at Oakes Garden Theatre.

Part of the wall at the site, located at the corner of the Niagara Parkway and Clifton Hill, has already been restored while work on another section along the parkway side of the theatre has begun.

"It's a good example of heritage restoration work that we're undertaking as part of our mandate," said Adames, noting the theatre turns 80 years old next year during Canada's 150th birthday.

He said the commission received a \$350,000 Canada 150 grant from the federal government for the Oakes Garden restoration, while Niagara Parks is responsible for the remaining cost.

Other areas of discussion during the sessions will include: Chippawaga grassland project; emerald ash borer initiative; fish habitat projects; Fort Erie break-wall and cycling trail plans; marina at Miller's Creek development; Rooted: Celebrating the garden campaign; and NPC service-road policy.



MIKE DUBATTISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Oakes Garden Theatre, which is located at the corner of the Niagara Parkway and Clifton Hill, has already been restored, while work on part of the wall that's along the parkway side of the theatre has begun.

CONTINUE > PAGE 20

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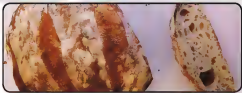


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# Three Niagara people die in plane crash

Three Niagara people killed in a plane that crashed in rural, mountainous northwestern Pennsylvania have been identified. According to the Associated Press, Pennsylvania State Police at Coudersport, near where wreckage of a small plane was found, have confirmed the identities of those involved in Corey Mijac, 18, Benjamin

Jeffries, 19, and Rifat Tawfig, 25.

Mijac and Jeffries, both recent graduates of Governor Simcoe Secondary School in St. Catharines, are from St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake respectively. Tawfig is from Niagara Falls.

Their plane was destined for Niagara District Airport Sunday after departing

from Richmond, Va.

According to the Richmond Times-Dispatch, the Federal Aviation Administration said it lost contact with the Canadian-registered Piper PA-28 Cherokee aircraft while it was over Potter County in Pennsylvania at about 7 p.m. Sunday.

"The FAA issued a notice (Sunday) to air traffic facilities, pilots and airports to

alert them about the missing aircraft."

The National Transportation Safety Board will be in charge of the investigation and is trying to determine what happened, the newspaper reported on its website.

A spokesman for Richmond International Airport told the Times-Dispatch the airport doesn't have any

information about the incident and that the airport doesn't keep a travel log for small general aviation airplanes.

The FAA deferred to the Potter County Sheriff's Office for information about the condition of the passengers of the aircraft or whether any survived. Calls to the Sheriff's Office were not immediately returned

Monday night.

According to WKBW, the McKean County Sheriff's Office confirmed that search teams found the aircraft in Potter County on Monday night.

The Buffalo TV station also reported that the plane had changed course en route to the Niagara-on-the-Lake airport to avoid a thunderstorm.

## Parks commission developing vision for Queen Victoria Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

The first session is scheduled for Thursday between 4:30 and 7 p.m. inside the clubhouse at Legends on the Niagara Golf complex on the Niagara Parkway in Niagara Falls.

The second is set for Oct. 26 between 4:30 and 7 p.m. at the Old Fort Erie visitor centre on Lakeshore Road in Fort Erie.

"Most of the projects are approved and moving forward, so it's both informa-

tion sharing and also to get some input on a couple of the projects," said Adames.

"For example, the Niagara Parks marina at Miller's Creek, that's to share information that we're going back out for another procurement.

Depending on how that procurement goes, that could be a very large project."

He said it's important for the commission to share information on its various

projects with the public.

"We held a similar public information centre last March where we shared information on a variety of projects. I think attendees who came out were very appreciative of Niagara Parks taking the time to host the sessions and share that information. I think it just goes a long way with stakeholder relations."

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MIKE DIORATISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The Niagara Parks Commission is looking for the public's help in coming up with a long-term vision for Queen Victoria Park.

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# Gazette

## Community Developments and Other Good News

Fort Erie has many reasons to be "hometown proud" — and the efforts of the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation, the Town of Fort Erie, and business community over the past year showcases growth, development and a collaborative effort to continue pushing forward with new initiatives.

This "progress edition" highlights the good news stories happening in our community and the dedication of hard-working business leaders, government officials, residents and entrepreneurs.

There's information about new business coming to Town, government funding,

infrastructure improvements, awards, waterfront expansions, enhancements, record-breaking tourism statistics, and new real estate and

business development opportunities. Also included is information about our new Foreign Trade Zone designation, plans for serviceable industrial land, utility and infrastructure upgrades, manufacturers' milestones, and updates on our three most significant potential developments—Canadian Motor Speedway, Fort Erie Race Track properties, and Miller Creek Marina.

"There's great opportunities for growth and development," said Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop. "Fort Erie is recognized more and more by tourists, investors, and residents as a great place to do business, enjoy our lifestyle and visit our attractions."



**FORT ERIE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM STAFF**

The Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation team, pictured left to right, are: Karen Audet, Economic Development Officer; Ricci O'Kane, Executive Assistant; Jim Thibert, General Manager; Carolee Grummett, Economic Development Officer.

## Planning for the Future: The Importance of Industrial Land

Addressing a significant lack of shovel-ready industrial real estate, the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation, in cooperation with the Town of Fort Erie, is embarking on an extensive Industrial Land Development Strategy.

"The future growth of our town depends on being able to satisfy interested investors with competitively priced, serviced, shovel-ready land," said Ric Gorham, Chairman of the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation. "We must identify the current property available in order to provide opportunities for new manufacturers to settle in Fort Erie to create future jobs."

Working with Town staff and

RCI Consulting (the firm hired by the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation to conduct the \$60,000 industrial land mapping and analysis), the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation's staff is looking to future development as they plot a 20 year strategy for potential sites.

The strategy is expected to be completed by early 2017 with findings to be presented to Council for their consideration to include in the Region of Niagara, Municipal Comprehensive Review—a Regional plan for forecasted growth to 2041 in Niagara.

"This is increasing business and investment interest in

Fort Erie," said Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation General Manager Jim Thibert, "so we need to ensure we are competitive in terms of site availability, zoning and servicing."

"We must consider various criteria to identify potential industrial land sites," said Rick Brady, Town of Fort Erie Director Planning and Development Services. "We understand the urgency and are working with the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation to identify lands in and beyond the urban service boundary to ensure we have enough industrial land to sustain our expected growth into the future."



**INDUSTRIAL SITES SURVEYED**

Town of Fort Erie Development Approvals Manager Jira Dolch, RCI Consulting Luc Picconi, Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation General Manager Jim Thibert, and Town of Fort Erie Director Planning and Development Services Rick Brady look to the road recently to survey current and potential industrial sites within and beyond the town's urban service boundaries.

# Preparing for Growth in Fort Erie

The Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation's team has taken a proactive approach to ensuring businesses, investors, and the labour force can be prepared for the significant impact of "the big three" multi-million dollar projects in the town's development project pipeline: Canadian Motor Speedway (CMS), Miller's Creek Marina, and Fort Erie Race Track Properties (CMP Properties 1, Ltd.)

"We are talking a total of almost \$1-billion worth of private-sector investments," said Jim Thibert, Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation General Manager. "Our clients are now approaching their trigger points and we are confident that over the next 18 months or less, key decisions will have to be made to advance them into the construction phase. The economic spin-off both in construction phases as well as ongoing operating phases, could be some of the most significant to ever impact Fort Erie."

## ARE WE READY?

### EDTC Economic Preparedness Strategy

The Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation has hired Deloitte Canada Inc. to develop an Economic Preparedness Strategy envisioning Fort Erie capitalizes on the demands of skills employment (it's estimated nearly 3,000 jobs could be created), investment, service supply, and other resources required.

"This strategic initiative will prepare the community to take maximum advantage of direct and secondary business and economic impacts. It will also help ensure that as the projects come on stream they have the labour, skills, services, and supply chains required to be successful," said Thibert.

He says with the potential for any or all of these projects, \$1-billion worth of investments are on the line. They will bring new jobs and new taxes and residents, entrepreneurs, and business owners

need to understand that in order to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities, "our labour force must be trained, customer centric

and prepared to work."

"The offshoot of these developments will firmly root our town as a highly sought out tourist destination, and will

benefit neighboring communities across the Region."

Upon completion of the Deloitte report, the Fort Erie Economic Development &

Tourism Corporation will share the information as it presents their 2016 annual report and 2017 budget request to Town Council.

## CMP PROPERTIES 1, Ltd.

Plans for a \$280-million tourism-driven development for 338-acres of property that includes Fort Erie Race Track are under planning by the owners of CMP Properties 1, Ltd.

With a mix of commercial and industrial uses to compliment Canadian Motor Speedway and Fort Erie Race Track, the initial plan calls for a 135-room hotel, 50,000-square-foot of retail space, and a proposed indoor water park, apartment complex and multi-storey parking facility to be built in several phases.



CMP Properties 1, Ltd.

## CANADIAN MOTOR SPEEDWAY

The latest plans at CMS include preparation to start six months of site alterations this fall, followed by 20 months of construction beginning next year, with the \$260-million race track facility to be completed by 2019. The development approval processes still outstanding include Site Plan Approval, Agreement and Holding Zone Removal and Building Permits by the Town of Fort Erie; Watershed permits by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority; Roads & Servicing permits from the Niagara Region; Building & Land Use Permits from the Ministry of Transportation; Environmental Assessments: Roads & Service works, and Servicing Certificates from the Ministry of Environment.



CMS is expected to cover several hundred acres of land for recreational, commercial, industrial & educational uses

## NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION'S MILLER CREEK MARINA

The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) continues to advance a potential \$200-million-plus development (Option C—the Resort Scale Marina Development) at Miller's Creek Marina, on the Niagara Parkway.

This procurement process will be undertaken over an eight month period beginning in October 2016. During this time, Niagara Parks will be reaching out to key stakeholder groups including the Region, Town of Fort Erie, the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport and the Ministry of International Trade with the goal of engaging potential proponents interested in advancing Niagara Parks objective of investing in, and establishing an exceptional marina/resort facility.

According to NPC's Chair Janice Thomson they are "focused on a large-Through the process, Niagara Parks will be engaging stakeholders and potential proponents to discuss the opportunities associated with its marina and resort development plans, in order to collect information and further refine the RFP documents. It is expected that a recommendation to the NPC Commissioners will be made by May 2017.

<http://corporate.niagaraparks.com/niagara-parks-marina-enhancement-project/>

**NIAGARA PARKS MARINA**  
INVESTMENT-DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Niagara Parks Commission is seeking interest from investors/developers for a \$200-million+ investment opportunity to develop the Niagara Parks Marina and adjacent facilities (see map) site.

Learn more about the next-stage procurement process beginning this fall at our information and engagement session.

**NIAGARA PARKS MARINA**  
Information & Engagement Session

October 31, 2016, 10:00 a.m.  
ONTARIO INVESTMENT & TRADE CENTRE  
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## Greenstone Structural Solutions

### New Manufacturer To Build Plant in Fort Erie

There will soon be a new business in Fort Erie's industrial park, as Greenstone Structural Solutions prepares to build a new 15,000 square foot manufacturing facility. Having purchased five acres of property on Commerce Parkway, in Fort Erie's Industrial Park on the QEW, the owners anticipate construction to begin as soon as site plans, permits and building processes are reviewed and filed.

Currently headquartered in Oshawa, Greenstone Structural Solutions opened their first manufacturing plant in Bran-

den and train approximately 10 – 12 employees in the spring of 2017 as it gears up for the production of its patented and innovative building technology. The Greenstone Structural Panel is a time-tested, high-performance and structurally superior framing system utilizing galvanized light-gauge steel and EPS (both 100% Recyclable). The Greenstone Structural panel is used in foundation, floor, wall, roof and ceiling components for residential, commercial and industrial applications as well as in-fill or curtain walls for high-rise construction. Of equal importance, the Greenstone Structural Panel



don, Manitoba this past April. The proximity to the US border and with the timely assistance from the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation team helped make the decision to bring Greenstone's second manufacturing plant to Fort Erie a fairly straight forward business decision.

Ric Gorham, Chairman of the Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation said "our stand-alone corporation is able to act as the liaison between the client the many government parties involved. Our staff have the knowledge of real estate, contacts, guiding legislative process, etc., and they help navigate our clients through it. We are pleased to welcome Greenstone Structural Solutions as the newest industry in town, and are excited for the creation of new employment opportunities."

Greenstone expects to hire

is not a "modular" building product; the flexibility inherent to the design of the technology allows for nearly any aesthetic look desired by the architect, engineer and home owner. The Greenstone Panel is a unique patented process utilizing the power of composite technology.

A structural grade, opposing double steel frame with rigid, fire retardant Modified Expanded Polystyrene Resin (EPS) bonded to the steel frames, forms a thermally broken, light weight composite building component that provides structural framing, insulation, and a vapor barrier in one, fast, high-tech step. The Greenstone building process meets all current and future building codes on both sides of the border.

"We welcome Greenstone Structural Solutions to our Fort Erie family of business," said Jim Thibert, General Manager of the Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation.

## Peninsula Alloy Set to Expand!

Roger Heise, owner of Peninsula Alloy Inc., 3600 Eagle Street, Stevensville, says they are preparing for an expansion of their plant and office building with construction expected to begin in Spring of 2017.

Following client meetings with the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation, Pen Alloy engaged in the new development pre-consultation process with the Town of Fort Erie. Once completed, the Pen Alloy site plan was approved in a record four hours! The company expansion is attributed to an increased demand of alloy steel from customers in the rail, mining, earth, engaging, marine, and industrial markets. Incorporated in 1981 Pen Alloy provides engineered solutions for its customer base. The plant is dedicated to continuous improvement and customer service. Safety, quality, and environmental preservation are given for the 50 employees of the steel foundry. Stay tuned for more reports on progress as they unfold!



## Black Creek Metals Purchases 40 Acres

With expectations to see business growth in the new year, Black Creek Metal Inc. is ready for potential expansion with the purchase of 40 acres on the corner of Eagle Street and Winger Street in Stevensville.

Established in 1975, the Fort Erie company is

one of Niagara's largest industrial and commercial contractors specializing in structural steel fabrication and erection, millwrighting and rigging, ironworking, piping fabrication and installation and pressure vessel fabrication.

"We are anticipating growth in our fabrication business," said co-owner Merle Beam, "so we need to be prepared to increase our manufacturing facility and equipment."

Black Creek Metals is currently working on business plans, architecture, and site planning. Stay tuned for more details about the business in 2017.



## \$2-Million Bay Beach Improvements Imminent

Ongoing collaborations with the Town of Fort Erie's "Project Team", community focus groups, stakeholders and the hundreds of participants of three community workshops have culminated in developing a plan to make positive change at Bay Beach.

With the strategic assistance of the Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation and input of Duward Jones Barkwell & Company, Town Council recently approved and submitted an application to the Region's Niagara

Waterfront Investment Program seeking \$850,000 in partnership funding to implement capital improvements to the popular Crystal Beach, as recommended in the approved Bay Beach Master Plan.

Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop believes the Bay Beach Master Plan will be "the catalyst for the revitalization of Crystal Beach."

The \$2.05 million enhancement project, which will be completed over the next five years, is expected to include new washroom and shower facilities, accessible

change rooms, improved parking, a festival square, admission gates and kiosk, pedestrian walk ways, children's play area, repurposing of the historic Lobster House, improved landscaping, and opportunities for residential and commercial development.



## Zavcor Hoping to “Drive” New Business with Driving Academy

With a solid 26 years of providing international temperature-controlled transportation services, Zavcor Trucking Limited, 3650 Eagle St., Stevensville, is on the cusp of launching an impressive new educational endeavor to become an accredited professional truck driving academy.

“We are in the advanced stages of completing application approvals,” said Kirk Zavitz, Zavcor President. “We’re a unique carrier and we know our business. Government regulations continue to tighten, and over the past six years we’ve discovered that some newly-licensed drivers weren’t necessarily road-ready. To combat that inexperience we have stepped up and taken on in-depth driver mentorship programs. It’s so exciting to take it a step

further and continue our mission to ‘build better drivers’ through our own driver academy.”

Once approvals are completed, Zavcor’s Human Resources/ Risk Manager Chris-



Christine Trombley & Kirk Zavitz

tine Trombley will take on the role of director of the Zavcor Professional Driving Academy. She explains that qualified applicants will be required to complete a six-week course comprised of 200 hours of class and hands-on driving training that will exceed the Mandatory Entry Level Training Standard, before graduating as a certified AZ Commercial driver.

“Our commitment to excellence will set us apart from others,” she said. Having identified deficiencies in the quality of job preparedness of recent graduates of other training facilities, she says they have developed a deliberate curriculum, and have aligned with community outreach partners to help educate and recruit. She’s ready to go and waiting for the green light to begin an “education cycle” that will ex-

ceed industry standards, bring a better quality of driver into the workforce, and to establish a new trend for the labour market.

Citing that the truck driving profession has long been under-rated, Zavitz and Trombley explained there are “massive labour opportunities” in the field. “AZ Drivers are in demand. Truck driving is a respected, necessary, and high paying job for both genders,” said Zavitz, adding that the average trucker age is 48-years-old. “There’s a dramatic driver shortage coming and we are working to attract enough new recruits to replace those retiring.”

Trombley continued: “We are partnering with high schools, other carriers, local social agencies, and others to demonstrate that truck driving is a proud, safe, well-

paying profession with flexible hours and ample opportunities for both genders. In offering a training facility locally, we are not only filling a market gap by providing jobs but we’ll also be building better drivers.”

The company is exploring various government revenue streams and will help facilitate tuition funding sources were applicable for interested candidates.

For more information call 905-382-3444 or visit [www.zavcor.com](http://www.zavcor.com).

*Zavcor Trucking Ltd. is privately owned & operated which employs 90 people in Fort Erie & have a fleet of 60 well-maintained trucks (standard & automatic). Its drivers specialize in the transportation of produce, throughout Ontario, Montreal, and north east USA. They are member of the Truck Training School Association of Ontario and a member of the Ontario Trucking Association.*

## Fort Erie Welcomes CMI Heavy Industries

The hum of manufacturing will soon fill the former DMI Industries building in Stevensville as CMI Heavy Industries (CMI) moves to town — bringing new job opportunities!

Relocating from its current 30,000-square-foot facility in St. Catharines, President and Senior Project Manager David Rapone says the new 118,000-square-foot building on Eagle Street will help advance business with much-needed space to expand their family-based manufacturing operation. For nearly a century CMI Heavy Industries has been providing large-scale machined components and assemblies, fabricating, assembly and testing, strip and rebuild, sandblasting and painting services to all heavy industries, including steel, oil and gas, power generation, mining, pulp and paper, marine, and various

OEM branded companies. The move to relocate to Fort Erie was predicated on the need for more, heavier manufacturing space. “We have outgrown our current facility and we are very excited about our future in Fort Erie,” says Rapone.

CMI has experienced high growth for nearly a decade as a result of a well put together strategy and execution.

“Outstanding dedication and performance by all of our employees have been key to the realization of our plans and we look forward to adding to our team to continue our growth,” said Rapone.

The former wind tower facility will allow CMI to take on many projects in industries that they currently are active in that they simply did not have the space nor lifting capacity to do

so prior. “Our current customers know that we have the expertise and a team that can execute the larger projects that we previously did not have the capacity to handle, so they also are very excited to see our new capacity come online,” said Rapone.

“Upgrades and improvements to the new site have been ongoing through the

summer and we are hopeful to be fully moved and operational by early in 2017.”

Hiring for additional welders, machinists, and millwrights is currently underway. Those seeking employment positions in these fields are encouraged to forward resumes to [hr@cmihi.com](mailto:hr@cmihi.com).

“We’ve enjoyed working with the Rapone family as they bring their skills and expertise. CMI is a five star company and we welcome their large-scale manufacturing business to our community,” said Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation’s General Manager Jim Thibert.

“The Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism team has been a valuable resource to our company during our site-finding phase,” said Rapone, “and we are excited to become a part of the local community.”







# Niagara Designated as Foreign Trade Zone

The government of Canada has announced the designation of the Niagara Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) Point, serving the Region's 12 municipalities from east of Hamilton to the United States border.

Meant to serve as a one-stop shop for businesses to access information on Canada's FTZ policies and programs, this is the first FTZ Point established in Ontario. "By creating this one-stop shop, the process of investing and trading in the Niagara Region will be streamlined, making the process of doing business here that much easier," said Brad Duguid, Minister Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure. "This government's priority is to grow the economy, create the conditions where good

jobs are created and ultimately to make Ontario the easiest place to do business in Canada. This marks an important step in getting us to where we want to go."

Designating a FTZ Point in Niagara aligns with the government of Canada's priorities to help businesses integrate into foreign markets and global value chains.

"By designating this FTZ in Niagara, we are strengthening the region and all of southern Ontario as an international hub with world market accessibility," said Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development.

The Niagara FTZ Point will provide streamlined information on the Government of Canada's tax and tariff export-related programs that

can make it easier for businesses looking to expand and export.

FTZ programming includes the Duty Deferral Program, the Drawback Program, the Customs Bonded Warehouse Program, the Export Distribution Center Program, and the Exporters of Processing Services Program.

This designation supports the Niagara Region's plans to leverage its central position, high-quality infrastructure, favorable business environment and world-renowned location to further lead the region and Canada into international markets.

"The designation will competitively position the Niagara Region as a hub for international trade and will help attract foreign and domestic investment," said Chris Bittle,

a member of Parliament. "This means more opportunities for jobs, and innovation in Canada, as well as new markets domestically and abroad. There are currently six FTZs established across Canada, including two in Nova Scotia, two in Alberta, and one each

in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. "The Niagara FTZ is the first for Ontario, and is sponsored by our own Niagara Development Corridor Partnership Inc., a partnership of economic developers from across the Niagara Region," said FTZ Chair Claude Pilato.



**FTZ INFORMATION SESSION HELD**

Pictured left to right: Niagara Region Director of Economic Development David Oakes, Brian York, Manager St. Catharines Economic Development and Tourism Services; and Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation's Claude Pilato, Vice Chair/FTZ Chair; and Carolee Grummett, Economic Development Officer.

## Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation:

# Catalyst for Creating a Unique Labour / Employment Strategy

As part of its continuing efforts to improve the economic environment and outlook for Fort Erie, the Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation has undertaken a number of initiatives to better analyze the short and longer term market opportunities that may be spawned from close to \$1-billion in the potential developments at Canadian Motor Speedway, Miller's Creek Marina, and Fort Erie Race Track properties.

A priority project has been the creation of a Fort Erie Labour Workforce steering committee, comprised of key agency representatives working together to evaluate the current labour market, demand, availability, shortfalls, skills gaps, education, training, and supports.

"A deliberate strategy will provide the Fort Erie busi-

ness community, and its citizens, with the appropriate capacity to address both short and long term business labour demands," said Jim Thibert, General Manager of the Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation. "We want to capitalize on business expansion opportunities and better ensure the local labor force can

find sustainable employment in or near Fort Erie."

The steering committee has brainstormed to identify relevant challenges, activities, education and training spheres, and organizational capacity in an effort to eventually provide a tool for Fort Erie employees and employers that is an accurate and easily accessible source of

data on programs, grants, seminars and training to best assist with mutual workforce placement.

"Our next meeting will clarify various approaches and improved access to the most effective programs and services," Thibert said. "This will also provide advice, counsel, and staff directions to employee or employer appli-

cants for assistance."

Ultimately, the final product is expected to be a tool utilized throughout the Region and beyond, as a template that marries the right individuals with the right jobs offered by informed employers to the long term benefit of local, regional and provincial economies.



**INDUSTRY COLLEAGUES DISCUSS LABOUR MARKET**

Joining the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism team for a labour roundtable session in May were (above left) Jim Thibert, General Manager of Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation; (above right) Lori Watson, Niagara Region; Deanna Villella and Larissa Smith, Job Gyn/John Howard Society; Marina Butler, Employment Professionals Canada. Also in attendance were Larry Johns, Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre; Mike Warchala, Small Business Enterprise Centre; Michelle Knapman, Business Education Council; Corinna Carson, Niagara Workforce Planning Board.

## Town "Goes Green" with New LED Lighting

The Town of Fort Erie is saving some "green" to "go green" with its approval of a \$2.2 million debenture for the design and conversion of the town-wide streetlights to more energy efficient LED (light emitting diode) luminaires.

"With approximately 3,320 street lights, costing taxpayers \$570,000 per year in electricity and maintenance costs, the Town of Fort Erie is in the vanguard of progressive communities seeking efficient and environmentally sensitive solutions to energy issues and which

can save between 30 to 70 per cent on power consumption based on current electricity rates and 75 to 95 per cent on maintenance costs," said Tom Kuchyt, Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Fort Erie.

Some of the benefits of the new LED lights include longer and predictable lifetime—up to 100,000 hours longer than conventional fluorescent or incandescent.

Additionally, they provide higher light

output at low temperatures and because LED light is more focused and doesn't require diffusers or reflectors, there is less wasted light. They can also be dimmed late at night and at early dawn.

Mayor Wayne Redekop stated: "The payback of ten years or so through reduced energy use and maintenance costs helped Council make the decision to move forward with this important project."

## Cherry Hill Hosts "Niagara Championship"



The Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation and the Niagara Sport Commission helped to sponsor the PGA Canada Mackenzie Tour in September.

As part of their tournament series which paves the way for tomorrow's golf stars, the event brought over 140 golfers to Cherry Hill Golf Course from across Canada and the USA on Sept. 5-11.

Due to the wildfires in Fort McMurray, tour organizers had to unexpectedly secure a new venue. Organizational sponsorship kept the event on schedule and introduced our community to many visitors from abroad.

Extensive media coverage showcased the Town, injected new tourism dollars, recruited over 300 local volunteers, brought a world class well-attended event to our community, and raised \$1,691 for our local Habitat for Humanity build.

## \$250,000 Funding for Bike Trail

Cyclists will soon be able to enjoy a seamless ride along the Niagara River Recreation Trail between Riverwalk and Bowen Road, thanks to the ongoing efforts of the Town of Fort Erie and Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) who were able to secure \$250,000 in Provincial funding.

Following the launch of the Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program (OMCIP) in July 2015, the two-year program provided municipalities an opportunity to apply for funding (up to 50%) for cycling infrastructure projects.

Following the grant submission process, only 51 municipalities out of 150 cities, were invited to submit full applications for review. The funding received through this program will be used to remedy the existing trail gap, which exists between Riverwalk and

Bowen Road. Estimated cost of the project is \$500,000, with a \$150,000 contribution coming from The Niagara Parks Commission (30%), \$100,000 from the Town of Fort Erie (20%), and a \$250,000 matching 50% OMCIP grant.

"The NPC is pleased to have partnered with the Town of Fort Erie on this successful application," stated NPC Chair Janice Thomson. Ward 2 Councillor Stephen Passero said: "Since opened in 1986, the Niagara River Recreation Trail has become a key link with other trail systems, including the Greater Niagara Circle Route, the Trans Canada Trail network, the Waterfront Trail and the 475-km Greenbelt Route."

Work on the project is expected to be completed by March 31, 2018.

## Town's Fiscal Responsibility Audit

At the June 20, 2016 regular council meeting, Town of Fort Erie Council received the 2015 Annual Financial Report from Town Staff.

"The Town's 2015 financial results demonstrate our commitment to fiscal responsibility and delivery of excellent service to our residents," said Mayor Wayne Redekop. "Our ultimate goal is to achieve a balance between providing high levels of quality service to our residents and ensuring these services are affordable for both current and future residents and businesses."

The levy surplus of \$1.25 million have been allocated strategically based on the Town's Reserve Policy and previous contribution commitments by Council in the following areas: \$297,901 to the Greater Fort Erie Secondary School Theatre Reserve Fund; \$252,684 to the Self Insurance Reserve Fund; \$96,802 to the Emergency Management Reserve Fund; \$26,987 in BIA surpluses be carried forward to 2016; \$576,996 to the General Levy Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund.

"The surplus shows the efforts of many Town staff to manage the available resources prudently and realize savings where possible," said Jonathan Janzen, Director, Corporate Services/Treasurer.

## Town Presented Annual Report & Budget Plan

In January the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation presented the Town of Fort Erie Council with a newly designed 2015 Annual Report and 2016 Budget Plan booklet.

An overview of the local economy, its challenges, & strategic vision to develop and attract growth opportunities for the Fort Erie community were outlined in a whole new and dynamic format, including their seven strategic responsibilities:

1. Grow & Retain Business
2. Grow & Retain Jobs
3. Attract New Investment
4. Capacity Building
5. Promote & Build Fort Erie's profile outside the community
6. Support Developers and Investors through build process
7. Administration

They also defined their Tourism Strategy including distribution of 85,000 copies of the Fort Erie Visitors Guide throughout Ontario, New York and Pennsylvania, and priority tourism projects including the Canadian Motor Speedway, Miller Creek Marina & F.E. Race Track Development.



## FELRC Live Racing Consortium

# Record Crowds, Record Wagering at F.E. Race Track

Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium (FELRC), a not-for-profit corporation running the Fort Erie Race Track, is continuing to buck trends and exceed performance figures as its 119th season of live thoroughbred racing comes to a close.

What is important to note to the end of September 2016, Fort Erie's wagering per purse now is equal to or better than any track in Canada, indicating a strong acceptance of Fort Erie's product in the export market.

This performance achievement is remarkable since the number of horses per race for Fort Erie has declined slightly this year, while Woodbine's had increased as a result of the disparity in purse scale for similar quality races. In fact, wagering per horse race has risen 87 per cent since 2011 at Fort Erie Race Track.

"Our performance clearly demonstrates our efficiencies in operation, the teamwork between management, operational staff and our horse people," said Jim Thibert, FELRC's Chief Executive Officer. "Further it clearly demonstrates that our wagering to

purse ratio is equal to or better than any thoroughbred track in Canada."

"Our Fort Erie Track," said Thibert, "is the little engine that could; Give us more horsepower and we will carry more freight," he said.

This year's POW event broke all records with the first ever \$2-million day and the highest wagering in 119 years!

"The Fort Erie Race Track, along with Niagara Parks' Old Fort Erie, are some of the largest, oldest, and most continuously operated tourism destinations in Ontario," says Ward 1 Councillor George McDerrott. "All of Fort Erie should be proud to support these iconic tourism venues."

### 2017 Race Dates Announced

At a recent Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium (FELRC) Board Meeting, the Board authorized staff to make the application for a 40-day 2017 race schedule. Live thoroughbred racing will commence its 120th year on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 through Tuesday, October 17, 2017.



## FELRC Historical-to-date Thoroughbred Racing Performances

\*2016 projected number to year-end October 18, 2016

NOTE: Quarter Horses excluded in any counts

### FELRC—Doing More With Less

Graph 1 demonstrates wagering per race has increased after the closing of the OLG Slots and has risen steadily (by 57%) since 2011, with Fort Erie's race product being well accepted with on-track attendance and export markets (remotes).

Line Graph #1 shows the number of race days essentially flat-lined since closure of OLG Slots. To increase race weeks, approximately \$300,000 per week (2 days of purses= \$200,000 & 1 week of operation = \$100,000).

Graph #2 demonstrates total number of race days annually in decline markedly since OLG Slot closure after 2012.

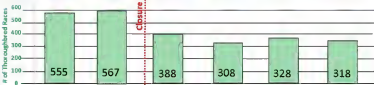
Graph #3 demonstrates the decline in the number of horses racing per year with almost 50% reduction in horse supply.

Graph 1

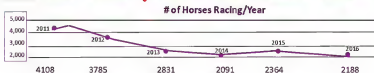
Average Wagering Per Race



Graph 2



Graph 3



Produced by Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation

## Fleet Canada: A Decade Later Company Still Going Strong!

With a long and innovative history dating back to the beginnings of the aviation industry and cloth covered wings, right up to the present with product being flown in the Space Shuttle and orbited the Earth, Fleet Canada Inc. has been making airplanes and aircraft parts from its Gilmore Road site since 1930.

Housed in an almost 500,000 square foot manufacturing facility, this proudly operated Canadian Aerospace Sub-contractor, currently specializing in detail part fabrication, advanced composites, adhesive metal bonding and airframe assembly, is celebrating a 10 year anniversary after an innovative "rebirth".

Formerly known as Fleet Industries, until 2006 when it closed down, it was reborn as Fleet Canada Inc. with the support of the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation funding a business feasibility study to re-start the plant and operations. As a result, Glenn Stansfield and a group of 14 former Fleet Industries employees purchased the business assets of the company from Magellan Aerospace.

"With focus, faith, and the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation as a champion of the local economy, we've worked toward re-establishing our place in the aviation industry and the local community," said Stansfield, President and CEO of Fleet Canada Inc. "Jim Thibert and the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation recognized the significance of the redevelopment of Fleet and were supportive of the new venture from its formation."

Currently the Chinook and Twin Otter have been Fleet Canada's two major business pillars, but Stansfield and his team are looking to increase revenues and diversify his business. They hope to get a foothold in Bombardier's C Series program.

In 2015 the company's leadership team launched a two-year plan to modernize the operation on three fronts: adopting lean manufacturing processes; implementing an enterprise resource planning system (ERP) which will modernize and document its processes and procedures with real time data tracking; and workforce rejuvenation.

"Workforce succession has been a huge focus in our business for the last four years," said Stansfield, stating that five years ago the average age of the workforce was 57, but today it's down to 50. "You don't replace a 40-year craftsman in the shop with someone off the street, but Niagara is

rich in talent and we are partnering experienced employees with new people."

"After 10 years of progress for Fleet Canada, the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation, who put the first share into the company, offered to support a Scholarship Program for Fort Erie Secondary School students," said Stansfield. This resulted in a

\$20,000 base funding for the Fleet Canada/FE: EDTC Scholarship Program," he continued. "Eligibility criteria have been drafted and intake will begin in February 2017."

## AeroSafe Technologies is Gold Level Supplier



Aero-safe Technologies, recently purchased by Vertex Precision, 1767 Pettit Road, is a supplier of machined components for the aerospace and defense industries. The company was recognized as a gold-level supplier to the renowned space hardware manufacturer Com Dev. Congratulations to this local manufacturer who employs 69 skilled trades, engineers and management personnel and also houses a high-school co-op and post secondary apprenticeship training program at its 25,000 square foot facility.

## Durez Canada Expands



### LOCAL EXPANSION BRINGS GLOBAL R&D CENTRE

Pictured left to right at the opening of Durez Canada's Sumitomo Bakelite North America Global Brake Piston R&D Center are: Hank Barber, Marketing Manager Automotive; Goichiro Kuwaki, CEO Sumitomo Bakelite North America; Rob Hunt, Plant Manager Molding Compounds; Mayor Wayne Radek; Jim Thibert, General Manager FE: EDTC; Fred Burd, Production Foreman; William Brewster, Production Operator; Member of Provincial Parliament, Wayne Gales.



## Minister of Finance Meets Representatives from Fort Erie

Fort Erie was well represented during a speaking engagement by Finance Minister Charles Sousa in Niagara Falls in April.

On hand to meet the minister, pictured left to right, are: Chris Knutt, Ward 6 Town of Fort Erie Councillor; Karen Audet FE: EDTC; Claude Pilato, FE: EDTC; Rick Philbs, FE Chamber President; The Honourable Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance; Ricci O'Kane, FE: EDTC; Jim Thibert, FE: EDTC; Adam Joon, Niagara Region; Colin Chilvers, FE: EDTC; Tom Valliquette, Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium.

## Economic Development Collaboration Brings Success to Niagara

Partnership efforts by economic development professionals from across the region are making gains for Niagara!

The Niagara Development Corridor Partnership Inc. (NDCPI) was established in 2005 and incorporated in 2012 as a streamlined and collaborative approach to attracting business and manufacturing opportunities to the five communities with full-time economic development profession-

als. It is intended to leverage the experience and skill sets of those staff and resources to the benefit of the member communities, business constituents and community development stakeholders. The partners include City of Welland, City of St. Catharines, City of Niagara Falls, Town of Fort Erie, City of Port Colborne. In 2014 NDCPI Inc. broadened to include the revamped Niagara Economic Development Office.

With a combined population in excess of 425,000, and an experienced labour force of 200,000 people including over 36,000 skilled workers, the Corridor is a central hub for the advanced manufacturing industry. The NDCPI serves as a focal point for accessing and sharing the newest manufacturing and material technologies including primary, fabricated and forged metal products, rubber, plastic, and chemical products, electrical and electronic products, non-metallic and mineral products, tool and die, and CNC machining.

Representatives from the group meet regularly and attend strategic meetings, site visits, and trade missions to advance Niagara's agenda.

Their collaborative efforts paved the way for the successful bid that Niagara be awarded an official Foreign Trade Zone (a designation that can provide many cost saving benefits to manufacturers). The most recent achievement is the group's joint effort to attract General Electric (GE) to build a brand new facility in Canada.

"Niagara wasn't even in GE's site line when considering opening this side of the border," said General Manager of the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation Jim Thibert. "The efforts of the 'Team Niagara' approach to search out and sell GE on the benefits of setting up shop in

Niagara was a positive outreach and great gain for all. Initially, the company was looking at Fort Erie as a prime site until it was determined that upgrading service lines to supply adequate gas delivery could take up to three years. The Welland site then became prime and Team Niagara helped woo the investors to Welland.

"We were thrilled they chose to stay in Niagara. Any gain to the Region is a gain to all the residents of Niagara," said Thibert.

Construction on the factory, which will make reciprocating engines, diesel engine components and other equipment, is slated to begin and it's expected to be operational by early 2018.

GE Canada spokeswoman Kim Warburton said the first phase of operations at the plant should create about 150 jobs and the company will begin hiring for some positions later this year.

The factory itself will be the first manufacturing facility of its kind in Canada.

Warburton said the facility's designation as a "brilliant factory" is a reference to the use of digital technology in the production process, providing flexibility "so more than one business requirements can be met on a changing basis."



Members of Team Niagara were on hand for GE's announcement they'd be building a new factory in Welland. Left to right are: Evan Acs, Brian York, Dan Degazio, Jim Thibert, Welland Mayor Frank Campion, Adam Joon, Lina DeChellis, David Oakes.

## NPC Fills Senior Positions

The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) has announced the appointment of Reegan McCullough as their new Chief Executive Officer. Currently the Executive Director of Oil Sands Community Alliance (OSCA) in Alberta, McCullough will assume his CEO duties on November 7.



"Reegan's exceptional experience in executive management positions within both the public and private sector... make him the ideal candidate to assume the responsibilities of CEO," said NPC Chair Janice Thomson.

McCullough's appointment comes after NPC's open search in late May to fill the position of General Manager, vacant as a result of John Lohuis' retirement at the end of August. During the process, it was determined that the NPC's ongoing interests would be best met with the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer with overall responsibility and accountability as the leader of the organization, focusing on strategic direction setting.

The CEO will provide direction and oversight to key corporate administrative functions and take the lead on short and long term organizational strategies that support the direction set by the Board.

Responsibility for all daily operational functions will be assigned to a new position, that of Chief Operating Officer, who will have direct supervisory responsibility of the Senior Directors heading up the business units within NPC.

"I am delighted to announce that David Adames, who is presently the NPC's Senior Director of Business Development, has been appointed to the role of Chief Operating Officer," said Thomson.

Adames has been in the position of Acting General Manager for the last three months and will be the point-person on the NPC Marina development project to maintain continuity.



THE NIAGARA DEVELOPMENT  
**CORRIDOR**  
— PARTNERSHIP —

### COLLABORATION BRINGS "TEAM NIAGARA" TOGETHER

Economic Development professionals from across Niagara form the Niagara Development Corridor Partnership Inc. which was formally established in 2005, as a streamlined approach to best serve the region. Pictured back row left to right are team members: Brian York, St. Catharines; David Oakes, Niagara Region; Dan Degazio, Welland; Jim Thibert, Fort Erie; Adam Joon, Niagara Region; Evan Acs, Port Colborne; Sergio Felcetti, Niagara Falls. Front row, left to right: Karen Audet, Fort Erie; Carolee Grummett, Fort Erie; and Lina DeChellis, Welland.



# Peace Bridge Begins \$80.5 Million in Upgrades

The Peace Bridge will undergo \$80.5-million in a four-stage rehabilitation process to upgrade and enhance the 69-year-old structure beginning this year and scheduled for

completion by 2019.

The restoration includes the complete replacement of the slab widening of the structure, an addition of a pedestrian walkway/bikeway and

observation platform, structural steel replacement, rehabilitation and strengthening, installation of electrical and fibre infrastructure, and the installation of new archite-

tural traffic-control gantries, railings and light posts. The Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority (PBA) expects construction to begin in June with no lane closures

until October, well after the peak summer travel season. As lowest bidder and with similar project experience, American Bridge Company was awarded the contract by the PBA. They will be responsible for all construction management including maintenance and protection of traffic on and under the Peace Bridge.

The Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority, a binational bridge authority, has owned and operated the Peace Bridge since 1933. The bridge, which was opened to traffic in 1927, spans the Niagara River between Fort Erie, Ontario, and Buffalo, New York and is a key international border crossing with more than \$40-billion in trade.

## Competitiveness Study:

### Niagara in Middle of the Pack

About 40 business and industry leaders attended the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corpora-

tion's Niagara Business Competitiveness Seminar.

"Brock did a very detailed comparative analysis which indicates Niagara sits in the middle of the pack. And that just isn't good enough. Now that we are armed with the information, we need to leverage our opportunities to pull ahead of the pack."

The study was spearheaded by the Niagara Region and the results shared at the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation's session included methodologies employed and top line statistics on Niagara's ranking amongst comparable cities.

"Upon full disclosure of the comprehensive findings of the entire report to Regional Council," said Thibert, "we will be able to scrutinize where Niagara comes up short, evaluate hurdles and make strategic recommendations that, if acted upon, can help improve the profile of all Niagara communities and drive new business, industry, tourists, and residents to our front door."



Brock Dickinson

tion's Niagara Business Competitiveness Seminar held in May at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre, Fort Erie.

As one of Canada's leading economic development thinkers, Brock Dickinson, CEO of MDB Insight, was commissioned to go on a Niagara-specific fact-finding mission.

"The crux of the study was to benchmark how Niagara's business and industry ranks competitively, by comparing it against similarly sized jurisdictions on both sides of the border," said Jim Thibert, Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism



## Residential Real Estate Market Booming

Fort Erie has been experiencing a very low inventory in the housing market. More out-of-town buyers, especially from the GTHA area have been adding to the buyer pool in Fort Erie more than ever before.

"According to Eugene Pilato, Broker of Record at Century 21 Today Realty Ltd., Brokerage, the low supply and high buyer demand have contributed to the following increases in Fort Erie to June 30 2016 compared to the same time last year:

- ~ 13.57% increase in the number of sales
- ~ 16.69% increase in the average price for the six months over the same period last year, and
- ~ A decrease in the average days on the market (from 86 days in 2015 to 62 in 2016).

For the most part, buyers are competing for the best listings causing a noticeable number to sell for 100% of list price or above, a trend that is likely to continue with a tight inventory market, low interest rates, and continued migration to the region.

Further, many would-be sellers are holding off because they struggle to find a home to move to, further

contributing to the low inventory. The low supply in resale homes is boosting new home sales as well, and semi-detached and townhouses continue to increase in popularity. Bungalow styles continue to be the most popular homes, regardless of whether they are resale, new detached, semi or townhouses. "It's a very busy market and one we don't remember seeing before," said Pilato.

This year, the average price to June 30 compared to 2015 has increased by 16.69%. If the strong demand continues, a real possibility, affordability for our first-time buyers will become more and more challenging. Despite this, Fort Erie's current median and average prices continue to be quite affordable when compared to Ontario's average price.

### Residential Construction

New residential construction in the Town of Fort Erie is being characterized as "benchmark" according to second quarter reports from the Town of Fort Erie Neighbourhood Planner Chris Miller, who indicates the increase of residential housing starts at the end of the second quarter

represent the best pace of growth in the last 20 years in Fort Erie.

The report also states:

A total of 72 new residential dwellings are being created from 59 permits drawn. Ridgeway-Thunder Bay led the market interest, claiming 27 of them, and activity ramped up with 11 permits issued in the Spears-High Pointe neighbourhood—an area "that has not seen any growth in the previous 20 plus years," Miller said in his report.

Bridgeburg claimed 15 new dwelling permits related to the Rose Seaton upper level conversion and Jarvis St. apartments.

The value of the new residential construction was also record setting to match the permit volumes of the quarter. New residential construction topped \$22-million.

Pending final site approvals, Acadia Frontier Development Inc. expects to begin developing Black Creek Signature, 37 acres designated for 121 single detached homes, 46 freestanding townhomes and 14 semi-detached homes in Black Creek.



Niagara Business Competitiveness Seminar

# Fort Erie to Offer State-of-the-Art School Amenities

## John Brant Elementary School Opens

The first day of school was a special occasion this year as students from three former

elementary schools (Bertie, Ridgeway, and Crystal Beach Elementary Schools)

merged together on September 6 to begin classes from the community's brand new structure—John Brant Elementary School, 143 Ridge Road N., Ridgeway. Featuring state-of-the-art classrooms and common areas for students to engage in exciting 21st century learning opportunities, District School Board of Niagara's professional staff are offering innovative programs to meet the needs of all their students. "It's been quite a journey to get to where we are today," the school's principal, Bill Hadfield, said.

When the doors were opened for the first time on Sept. 6, students from the former Bertie Public, Crystal Beach Public and Ridgeway Public Schools were welcomed to John Brant.

"Last year, the students from three schools gathered together on several occasions (to get to know each other). Students became friends, and teachers became colleagues," he said. "We were building a new school that the students will love." District School Board Trustees chose to name the new

school after historical figure John Brant. Born in 1794, John Brant was a Mohawk chief and a government official. He made history as the first indigenous lawmaker in parliament. During the War of 1812, he led the Mohawk in the Battle of Queenston Heights.

"This landmark amenity is a testament to the growth and development that Ridgeway is experiencing," said Town of Fort Erie Ward 4 Councillor Marina Butler. "It will serve our residents for many generations".



John Brant Public School Opened Sept. 6, 2016

## Construction Continues on Greater Fort Erie High School

Progress continues to be made at the construction site of the new Greater Fort Erie Secondary School (GFESS), located on Garrison Road, Fort Erie. Struct-Con Construction was awarded the contract, with a targeted completion date of September 2017.

The decision to build a new high school in Fort Erie was a result of an accommodation review conducted by the District School Board of Niagara's Accommodation Review Committee. The committee recommended the closure of Fort Erie Secondary School and Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School in favour of uniting all of the municipality's students into one facility.

Fred Louws, the current prin-

cipal at RCBHS, has been named the GFESS's first principal.

The Ministry of Education has announced a \$20.6 million funding grant in support of the new school building, which will be the first new DSBN school in the Niagara Region in over 40 years.

The new school will be located at 1640 Garrison Road (former Fort Erie Golf Course lands). It will front onto Garrison Road across from Town of Fort Erie Municipal building. The Golf Course has been slightly altered and continues its operation.

The 116,600-square-foot school will feature 33 classrooms including science labs, music, arts, business and technology rooms. It will

also include a cafeteria, a kitchen for its award-winning food programs, a double gym, a fitness centre, and an artificial turf athletic field.

The total budget for the project is \$28,405,253 including the cost of the land as well as the \$3-million Fort Erie Centre for the Arts, which will be

financed through fundraising efforts. The DSBN and Town of Fort Erie have each contributed \$500,000 to the theatre project.

## EDTC Boosts Building Fund with Donation



The Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation Vice Chairman, Claude Pilato, presented a \$5,000 cheque to Fred Louws, Ridgeway-Crystal Beach Secondary School Principal, and Ward 4 Town of Fort Erie Councillor Marina Butler, as a contribution toward the Greater Fort Erie Centre for the Arts, to be housed in the new Greater Fort Erie Secondary School. "We now have \$550,000 raised of the \$2-million required and look forward to more exciting fundraising events and announcements this fall," said Fred Louws. "The Centre for the Arts will be a modern, inspiring 500+ seat venue which will be a showcase facility for a variety of creative endeavors that will support the arts community, draw visitors and be an important tool for student development."

### Construction continues with expected opening in 2017



# Millions of Dollars Invested to Grow Fort Erie

Ward 3 Councillor Kimberly Zanko says Town Council is consistently dedicating dollars to renew the Town's infrastructure year over year. "Our approach is to be aggressive, while getting the

gic thinking but we've gotten pretty good at it over the years."

In past decade, close to \$94-million has been invested in Fort Erie's infrastructure — funded by the Town of Fort

Park Storm Drainage project; \$5.5-million Regional Eagle Street Water main project; \$28-million Frenchman's Creek Trunk Sewer upgrade to open existing industrial, commercial, and residential lands for future development; \$1-million Concession Road redundant ramp closure; \$4.5-million Garrison Road reconstruction; and \$10-

million North Crescent Park Storm Drainage improvements; infrastructure upgrades to Catherine Street, and Bowen Road servicing upgrades. The Region also approved \$12-million for the Central Avenue Bridge replacement and \$14-million has been set aside for the first stage of the repairing Dominion Road.

"Fort Erie has been a huge winner when it comes to infrastructure renewal," said Regional Councillor Sandy Annunziata. "When you look at the investments into bridges and roads, that's going to mean a much stronger Fort Erie."

Town of Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop said council understands the importance of seeing beyond the current term. "The ability to realize how budget decisions today impact the long term financial health of our municipality makes it easier to make the tough decisions that will assist future operations," he said.

Regarding the 2016 capital program, TOFE Chief Administrative Officer Tom Kuchyt says that it's "significantly higher than previous years as a result of the Canadian Motor Speedway servicing requirements, the majority of which will be funded through other sources".



most value for our dollar. While in the planning process, we often look for opportunities to combine construction projects, leverage funding grants or collaborate with the Region," she said. "It allows us to reallocate cost-savings to drive even more infrastructure projects sooner than planned. It's a balance and it requires a lot of strate-

Erie and also partially funded from federal, provincial, and regional resources.

Historical and recent infrastructure improvements include about \$1-million Regional investment in the Douglastown Sanitary Force main upgrades; \$7.5-million full reconstruction of Ridge Road; \$600,000 Skatepark project; \$10-million Crescent



LEADERS PROVIDE STATE OF FORT ERIE UPDATE

Rick Phibbs, Mayor Wayne Redekop, and Jim Thibert were guest panelists representing the FE Chamber of Commerce, Town of FE, and FE Economic Development & Tourism Corp. at the annual State of Fort Erie address.

## CNP / Fortis Ontario Invests Heavily in Utility Upgrades

For over 100 years, Canadian Niagara Power Inc. ("CNPI") has been committed to providing safe and reliable electricity to the residents of Fort Erie. The company has changed significantly in the last 100 years and is now a wholly owned subsidiary of FortisOntario. FortisOntario owns and operates Canadian Niagara Power Inc., Cornwall Street Railway Light & Power Company Ltd. and Algoma Power Inc., serving a combined 65,000 customers.

Reliable supply of electricity is a mainstay of CNPI's operations. In the last few years, over \$14 million was spent on converting an aging voltage system to an upgraded system. A new \$2.1 million distribution substation was built to better serve the customers in Fort Erie. An aggressive tree trimming pro-

gram is on-going to mitigate future outages along with regular upgrades to the distribution system. These are just some examples of how CNPI continues to invest in Fort Erie.

In 2015, the International Power Line ("IPL"), which is a 115kV electricity transmission line that crosses the Canadian and United States international boundary, interconnecting the two countries' transmission systems was removed and rebuilt. Originally constructed in 1916, the IPL consisted of two lattice steel towers and six conductor strands, spanning over 2000 ft. of the Niagara River, connecting the Canadian Queen Street Tower (Canadian Niagara Power Inc.) to the American Buffalo High Tower (National Grid). The original structures were

removed and replaced with a more current design of tubular, steel poles which can be seen today. This rebuilt interconnection provides for the continued delivery of backup power supply to the Town of Fort Erie. The interconnection also benefits CNPI's electrical system by providing protection to electricity supply during long duration outages which may have previously been unavoidable due to routine maintenance efforts on CNPI's transmis-

sion system. CNPI avoided a long town wide outage earlier this year, by utilizing the newly built IPL. Over the next five years, CNPI plans to invest approximately \$24-million dollars in its Fort Erie distribution system. This includes on-going voltage conversions, a new substation is planned for the north end of Fort Erie along with continuous system upgrades each year. CNPI is now offering customers e-billing and the option to see

their electricity usage online. Conservation and Demand Management programs are also available to help customers better manage their electrical consumption.

CNPI has recently added social media as a communication channel, specifically during power outages. CNPI has proudly served the customers of Fort Erie for the last 100 years and will continue to do for the years to come.

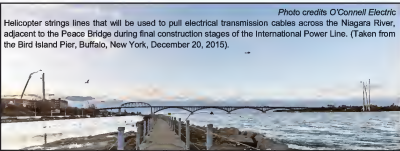


Photo credits O'Connell Electric  
Helicopter strings lines that will be used to pull electrical transmission cables across the Niagara River, adjacent to the Peace Bridge during final construction stages of the International Power Line. (Taken from the Bird Island Pier, Buffalo, New York, December 20, 2015).

## Local Innovation Leads to Manufacturing Growth

The Harber family continue to successfully navigate the road of innovation to expand their business. Established in 1946 by Blair Harber Sr., as Harber Manufacturing, 70 years and three generations later, the company's revolutionary approach to diversify their product lines of custom material fabrications and environmental abatement products has expanded to 50,000 square feet of manufacturing space that houses Abatement Technologies and Harber Technologies.



**Abatement's revolutionary equipment:  
Trumpf TruLaser 2020 and Trumpf TruPun**

After patenting a design for folding aluminum lawn furniture, the business began producing "Harber-Lite" lawn furniture from its High Street location. By the late 1950s, the local business used their knowledge base to produce "Feathercraft" aluminum boats for Fleet Aircraft, and later became the exclusive provider of their

"HarberCraft" line of boats under the Sears label.

From 1956 to 1994, the company produced over 110,000 aluminum boats, many of which are still in use today. The family business offers custom laser and metal fabrication, through Harber Technologies. Since 1985 Abatement Technologies, produces technologically advanced indoor air quality devices

used by asbestos abatement and HVAC contractors, commercial building owners, facility managers and hospital infection control specialists.

"The Abatement Technologies brand has continued to expand since its inception and is now largely focused on dust and particulate control in health care construction," said Andrew Harber, Chief Operating Officer.

"Infection control is a key initiative for hospitals across North America and awareness is growing internationally. Our focus on precision manufacturing allows us to serve these critical markets and the growth potential is increasing with awareness of the effects construction can have on immunocompromised patients."

Priding themselves on "being creatively strategic and technologically innovative," Harber continued, saying: "Our ability to analyze and act upon market trends, work with the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation to identify research and development grants, and direct our service manufacturing division to provide advanced technology, expertise, and quick turnaround times has been integral to our advancement."

Their on-point development

grew the company into a medium enterprise of 55 employees locally, with an additional 25 employees spread over 5 branch locations across Canada, and 35 more in a sales and distribution facility in Atlanta, Georgia. This network serves both domestic and international markets supported by their corporate headquarters and manufacturing facility here in Fort Erie.

"Taking advantage of the newly established Foreign Trade Zone designation brought in through the efforts of Team Niagara will greatly assist our export business," said Harber.

"We've grown and continue to grow, and we anticipate continued sustainable growth in both our service manufacturing (Harber Technologies) and Abatement Technologies divisions over the coming years."

## Plant Expansion Celebrated at Airbus Helicopter Canada

As part of Airbus Helicopters Canada's international Repair and Overhaul success, it has expanded its Support and Services department at their main facility in Fort Erie.

The 5,000 square foot space is an increase of 65% for the company's Repair and Overhaul department. "It is our main

priority to keep our customers' aircraft operating at peak performance. With this expansion, we will increase the efficiency of our Repair and Overhaul capabilities, resulting in faster turn-around-time when an aircraft requires service," said Romain Trapp, President of Airbus Helicopters Canada.

"An operator's competitiveness is directly linked to the amount of time their aircraft is flying. We are committed to taking the steps necessary to ensure we support our customers' ability to succeed, as their success will

ultimately become a reflection of our own."

The expansion of Airbus Helicopters Canada's Repair and Overhaul department is a direct result of the high demand for service from customers both

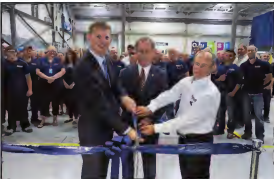
domestically and internationally. Five years ago there was a dramatic increase in AS350H125 aircraft sales worldwide. With 300 - 600 flight hours per year, many of these aircraft are coming due for overhaul. Today, there are currently 522 AS350H125's flying in Canada.

Part of the newly expanded facility is the creation of additional Repair & Overhaul workstations as well as, the hiring of new full-time employees to assist with the high demand. Airbus Helicopters Canada is considered an International Centre of Excellence for light aircraft.



**REGION & EDC TOURS AIRBUS**

Members of the Fort Erie Economic Development team (Caralee Grummett, left) and Region of Niagara (Adam Joen and David Oakes, far right) joined General Manager of Airbus Helicopters Dwayne Charette, (second on left) for a recent facility tour of the local manufacturer.



*Photo by Vitek Zawada*

**EXPANSION RIBBON CUTTING IN JUNE**

Pictured left to right at ribbon cutting ceremony are Romain Trapp, President & CEO Airbus Helicopters Canada; Town of Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop; and Benoit Marcoux, Director Support & Services Airbus Helicopters Canada.



## Truk-King Becoming Key Player in Environmental Emissions

Innovation and passion are the driving forces behind expansion plans at Truk-King Logistics Inc., a privately owned and operated dry freight trucking and logistics company located at 1799 Pettit Road, Fort Erie.

According to President, Richard Bacon, "Fort Erie is on the

verge of seeing a retail refueling station for compressed natural gas, electric fuel, and hydrogen."

"We are a think-outside-of-the-box carrier striving to develop policies and framework for emissions and establish ourselves as a leader in environmentally-friendly combustion engines," he said, adding that the nation lags drastically behind the rest of the world on emission initiatives. "Now however, with plans to invest in new green initiatives, coupled with provincial and federal government interest, Truk-King's infrastructure makes us a prime location to invest."



Truk-King Logistics Inc. President Richard Bacon pictured in front of his newly acquired acreage

Working closely with Envoy Energy President James Ro, Bacon is hopeful to see the project move forward and become more firmly rooted within the year.

"With the help of the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation and the Town of Fort Erie, we were able to purchase four acres of adjacent land. So we are ready to develop and offer our residents and industry fleets a means to lessen their carbon footprint with cleaner emissions."

"With \$371-billion in the transportation industry, and \$179-billion in exports from Canada into the USA, Fort Erie's strategic location makes us a key player."

As a local business (estab-

lished 1996) the company desires to hire women and men from the community as part of their driving team. Being a professional driver for Truk-King does not mean sacrificing your family or home life. "We accommodate a variety of drivers and personal schedules and, from a career point of view," said Bacon, "a professional driver can earn between \$50,000 - \$70,000 working for Truk-King."

Local companies that 'ship or receive' are encouraged to join Truk-King and benefit from the 'green initiatives in the making.' With a fleet of 31 trucks, 65 trailers, and 40 employees, offering LTL, FTL and cross docking facilities Truk-King Logistics is "a company small enough to care and big enough to compete."

## New Beginnings Taking Shape at Former METCOR Site

Site improvements have begun at the former METCOR plant, 425 Phipps St., Fort Erie after the manufacturing site was officially sold this summer.

Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation General Manager Jim Thibert said "we have been working with a client who's purchased the building with hopes of increasing their manufacturing by 50 per cent. Stay tuned for more progress updates early next year as they work their planning stage."

As long as seven years ago METCOR had offers of purchase but deals fell through on disclosure the purchasers lacked a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment (EA). "In order to ensure this issue wouldn't hamper a future sale, the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation made arrangements to pay for the EA, with the caveat the owner would repay upon a successful sale closing," said Thibert.

"I am pleased to report that the building has sold recently to a company we are working with closely, and that the owners of METCOR have fulfilled their obligation to reimburse us for the EA — making two happy customers!"

The closing of this deal and recent sale of the former DMI site in Stevensville ultimately "depletes Fort Erie of available manufacturing properties," said Thibert.



## Thibert Named Newest Board Member

Niagara College's Welland campus has 15,000 square feet of new space which provide local small and medium-sized enterprises with one-stop access to business assistance and to bring new ideas to life!

The Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre opened in May offering office and space for faculty and student projects, as well as innovation space for companies to work on-site with Research and Innovation staff on pre-project market assessment, business services, technology projects, infrastructure, equipment, and post-project go-to-market plans.

Largely funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada which supports students and postdoctoral fellows in their advanced studies, the government agency which provides research grants in the fields of natural sciences and engineering also promotes innovation by encouraging Canadian companies to participate and invest in post secondary research and training.



The Fort Erie TIMES, Thursday, October 20, 2016



# Town Launches Strategic Leadership Focus

The Town of Fort Erie has set out a vision for 2015-2018 with priorities, goals and initiatives that will continue to provide a leadership focus for the municipality and its residents.

Council determined the main priorities and areas of focus are on: 1) A prosperous and growing community; 2) Effective, sustainable infrastructure; and 3) Strong customer service, relationships and communications.

As outlined in the Corporate Strategic Plan last year,

Council's vision is for the Town of Fort Erie to be "a welcoming, prosperous, connected community of choice."

The official Mission Statement reads:

*"To lead and serve Fort Erie by pursuing opportunities, leveraging partnerships and managing our resources to achieve growth."*

Council Champions have been chosen for each of the priority areas and will be working with staff to ensure Council's direction is implemented.

Ward 2 Councillor Stephen Passero said: "As chair of the budget process for 2017, I am confident that our council will once again be strategic in our investments; capitalizing on current opportunities to seize economic growth, and setting aside funds towards long term initiatives that enable us to provide an economic environment where all stakeholders can continue to prosper."

The full initiative can be viewed online at:  
[www.forterie.ca/pages/20152018](http://www.forterie.ca/pages/20152018)



## SAFARI NIAGARA SET TO EXPAND

Safari Niagara closed out its 2016 season with the arrival of two new yearling giraffes — and visitors can look forward to even more new exhibits next season! The popular 150-acre tourist attraction will start to expand onto an additional 200 acres of land as it prepares a new Indian rhinoceros exhibit and redesigns the lion and the tiger enclosures. According to owner Tim Tykolis, they've experienced good growth patterns and are excited to showcase new 2017 exhibits to both local residents and customers.

## Retail Fashion Expansion at Garden Gallery!

Stevensville Garden Gallery, 2821 Stevensville Road, Stevensville, is in the final stages of an exciting expansion and redesign project to better serve its retail clientele. Owner Marianne Tykolis-Casey said they've "gutted a greenhouse" to double the floor space for their line of fashions at Lillie's Boutiques and have been working on a huge transformation with a new look and new stock at the Garden Gallery.

"We've had great demand for our clothing lines and have outgrown the space," she said. With finishing touches on the renovation project, the store's boutique will house three new full staff, a dedicated cash, and fully expanded change rooms.

"We'll be looking for 'fashionistas' with a flair for customer service and fashion to complete the staffing compliment," said Tykolis-Casey.

She is excited to be offering new lines at all price points, including high-end "Tribal", "Mode Gitanne" and "Femme Fatale" fashions from Montreal /Paris, and a selection of funky "Boho" trends.

From dresses, jackets, gloves, hats, accessories, handbags, "Lola" jeans, and more, Lillie's Boutique will carry many lines and many sizes — from small to XXL for women of all sizes.

The Garden Gallery itself is also undertaking a transformation, as "the elves are busy at work and the entire store will soon be ready for the holidays as we unveil this year's Christmas Wonderland."

From its 80,000 square feet of retail space, consumers can choose from home décor, patio furniture, plants and nursery items, jewelry, fashions, and a full array of Christmas trees, decorations and giftware. The store is open seven days a week!



## Minor Brothers Begins Build

"We are pleased that construction has begun at Minor Brothers Country Living, 2736 Stevensville Road," said Ward 6 Councillor Chris Knutt. Manager Tanya

LaRose said she anticipates they will be open and ready to go in their new 8,000-square-foot store by January 2017.

Established in 1966, the farm & feed supply which employs 8 people, was partially destroyed by fire two years ago. The new retail outlet will house a full line of farm, bird, pet foods and supplies, and new fishing & hunting section.



## Habitat for Humanity Builds Home

The Fort Erie community continues to rally in support of Habitat for Humanity who are making great progress on the first of two builds on land in Crescent

Park donated privately for this initiative. With support and sponsorship from the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation, the Town of Fort Erie, & many other businesses and volunteers from the community, the home will be move-in ready by December.



# Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation

## What Does it Do?

### How this Stand-alone Corporation Helps Create an Environment to Grow & Attract Businesses Who Will Bring Jobs to Town

As a stand-alone Corporation created by the Town of Fort Erie and housed offsite from Town Hall, the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation is poised to consult with and support the business community in a confidential business-like manner.

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

The Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation fosters an environment in the Town of Fort Erie that is conducive to business and industry creating jobs and economic prosperity, thereby increasing the quality of life opportunities for all our citizens. The Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation does this by focusing on ways and means to help stabilize, enhance and expand the existing employment base and to attract new job sources to the Town of Fort Erie, by creating and promoting a positive image of the Town and by working with several levels of government in support of our goals.

The Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation is governed by a five member Board of Directors which include the Mayor, a designated member of Town Council and three representatives from the business community. Aside from the scheduled board meetings, each April the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation also conducts an Annual General Meeting (as required by the Canada Business Corporations Act) which is supervised by their corporate solicitor and an independent third party audit firm. They also provide an Annual Performance Report and Budget Plan each year with a public presentation to Town Council.

#### MANDATE & CORE FUNCTIONS:

The Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation operates within a client-based policy. Residents of Fort Erie, the general public and members of the development and investment community are encouraged to approach the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation with any questions or concerns that fall within our mandate; more specifically, business development, property acquisition and development, development policies and relevant economic analysis.

"We run a not-for-profit corporation which is fully transparent to the public," said Jim Thibert, Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation's General Manager. "Our main goals are to help grow and retain business and job opportunities, to attract new investment, to build lasting working relationships with key stakeholders, to promote the town's tourism portfolio and profile outside our community, to support clients through the build process, and administration. It is a very competitive world out there," said Thibert, "so we need to ensure Fort Erie is prepared and highly competitive in our offerings."



#### BOARD & STAFF

Pictured left to right:

Karen Audet (EDO)  
Ricci O'Kane (EA)  
Ric Gorham (Chair)  
Jim Thibert (GM)  
Claude Pilato (Vice Chair)  
Caralee Grummett (EDO)  
Mayor Wayne Redekop  
Wayne Nelson (Treasurer)

Absent from photo:  
Ward 1 Town Councillor  
George McDermott.

#### Community Support & Awareness:



C of C Black Cat Gala Auction



Chinese delegations at Town



Habitat Committee Members



State of the Region 2016



2016 Annual General Meeting



Multi-sector Roundtable Sessions



660 Garrison Road, Fort Erie, ON L2A 6E2  
Phone 905-871-1332 Toll free: 1-888-270-9151

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Website: [www.forteriecanada.com](http://www.forteriecanada.com)

# OUR NIAGARA



## Greater Niagara Chamber honours Women in Business leaders

October 14, 2016 (Niagara) – On Friday, October 14, the Women in Niagara (WIN) Council, a business council of the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce (GNCC) and founding partners, The Standard, The Tribune and The Review, hosted the Women in Business Awards at the Crowne Plaza in Niagara Falls. Three hundred business, political and community leaders from Niagara attended the sold-out event to honour twenty-nine finalists in this year's ceremony. The proceedings were crowned by the bestowal of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Mary Turner of Canadian Tire Bank. This event was the sixteenth annual Women in Business Awards ceremony.

The Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce is the champion for the Niagara business community. With almost 1,600 members representing 50,000 employees, it is the largest business organization in Niagara and the third largest Chamber in Ontario. The Chamber Accreditation Council of Canada has recognized the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce with its highest level of distinction.

For further information, contact:

Mishka Balsom

President & CEO

Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce

905-684-2361 ext. 227 or mishka@gncc.ca

**BANK LOCAL**

A look back  
at the week  
in Niagara



**PenFinancial**  
CREDIT UNION

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## Five generations of family



SUBMITTED PHOTO/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

The Dunn family recently held a family gathering in Stevensville to mark the visit of 96-year-old Mary Fraser, of Maine. The reunion featured five generations of family members. Pictured from left, are Joey Czaja, Debbie Harasty, John Dunn, Jody Czaja, Mary Czaja and (centre) Mary Fraser, the sister of John Dunn's late mother.

## Alarming numbers for distracted driving

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Cliff Priest, president of Niagara Region Police Association, which represents rank-and-file officers, has his own suggestion. He spent a significant part of his career in traffic safety and conducted hundreds of collision reconstruction investigations. He's considered an expert on the subject and has helped the province write legislation. Just recently he was commended by the Governor General.

"The legislators should listen to the police," he said. "I sat on a committee dealing with it way back."

"The first thing they said was give the police the power to seize the cellphone."

"When you lose a \$600 iPhone 7 with all your information in it, you won't be texting again."

According to the OPP, deaths from collisions caused by distracted driving have doubled since 2000 in Ontario.

Ontario data on collisions from 2013 show that one person is injured in a distracted-driving collision every half-hour and a driver using a phone is four times more likely to crash than a driver focusing on the road.

OPP launched its distracted driving campaign over the Labour Day weekend. As of mid-August, the OPP had investigated 38 road deaths in 2016 in which an inattentive driver was involved, compared to 19 deaths

involving an impaired driver. The NRP's back-to-school traffic safety blitz last month — Back to School Children and Road Safety Day, formerly called Operation All Hands on Deck — resulted in 11 people caught driving while operating a hand-held communication device in a single day.

"We would consider the problem a serious concern," said Sgt. Joshua Klop of the NRP's traffic enforcement unit.

"When the fines increased, we saw a decline in the number of people visibly on their phone while driving. However, we believe that many of them are just hiding it better from us."

Police in Quebec have taken to using a bus to catch drivers as part of a pilot project. The elevated view helps them spot sneaky drivers.

When officers in the bus

observe drivers using their phones from above, they are flagged and police cars following behind intercept them.

Businessman Serravalle said he hopes his campaign can contribute to changing public perceptions. Other auto recyclers have contacted him asking if they can use his idea after seeing a story in a collision repair magazine.

"These guys texting and driving aren't even trying to concentrate," he said. "They are taking their eyes off the road."

"Our message tells people this is what can happen if you text and drive."

"Everyone thinks they are untouchable," Saravalle said. "It's a bad situation, and we are coming out of it."

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## Show and Shine Charity Barbecue



BOB GALVIN/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Staff at Zanchin Truck and Trailer in Fort Erie wish to thank everyone that recently attended their annual Show and Shine Charity Barbecue. All of the proceeds raised from the event were donated to Tristan Romeo, who is battling cancer, and his family.

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# Pooches perk up patients

**MICHELLE ALLENBERG**  
Postmedia Network

Patients at the Welland hospital were all smiles when a group of furry friends paid them a visit.

Niagara Health System's new Pet Therapy Program in partnership with St. John Ambulance has been focusing on boosting the mood of patients with the help of therapy dogs.

The pups have been visiting patients staying in the Woolcott Wing for a few months.

The program has expanded since to the mental health program at St. Catharines hospital. Niagara Health System plans to expand the program to other facilities.

Long-term patient Joseph Don Caron has been in hospital for more than a month undergoing treatment for a spinal cord injury. He and his wife Rose Caron said the therapy

dogs make a big difference in their day.

"It is just wonderful, to me it has been great ... it helps. People who are in here longer term, than other places, they need that contact with the outside, with animals ... because the animals give them such calm and joy," Rose said during a recent pet visit.

Joseph and his wife have a dog at home who Joseph said he misses. The Carons' daughter will bring the dog for a visit, which helps, but they said it's also nice to have the pet therapy dogs visit.

Carol Girardi, clinical manager at the Woolcott Wing, said she has seen positive changes in the patients since the program started. Some patients used to refuse care or didn't want to get out of bed, but Girardi said once they see the dogs they want to get up.

"Their whole day changes and it is a nice

thing to see. We are very big advocates for the pet therapy program," Girardi said.

Girardi has noticed the visits have reduced anxiety and boosted positivity in patients.

The NHS program will visit the Woolcott Wing about twice a week with a dog. Girardi said the dog visits about 35 patients during each visit.

Michelle Szabo, recreation therapist at the Woolcott Wing, said staff would love to have dogs visit every day if they could find more volunteers with therapy dogs. She said patients are always excited when they know a dog is coming to visit.

Girardi said Szabo spearheaded the program because there was a time when there were no dogs visiting and it was "sad".

Having the therapy creates a positive atmosphere for people.



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Tequila the pup spends time with Welland Hospital patient Robert Macdonald during a visit from the Pet Therapy Dog Program from St. John Ambulance last Thursday.



## Celebrate Canada's 150th: Fort Erie

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**The Fort Erie Times**

**Myra Robertson**  
mrobertson@postmedia.com  
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Rose Caron and her husband Joseph Don Caron enjoy the company of a pooch named Tequila during a visit from Pet Therapy Dogs Thursday at Welland hospital.



# Teachers' pension plan buys Niagara wineries

Cautious optimism  
greeted Constellation  
Brands sale

DON FRASER  
Postmedia Network

Constellation Brands Inc. is selling its Canadian wine business to Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan in a deal valued at about \$1.03 billion.

Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan confirmed the deal Monday to acquire Constellation Brands Canada, with the transaction expected to close by year's end.

The deal, which includes Niagara wine brands such as Jackson-Triggs and Inniskillin, wineries, vineyards, offices, facilities and Wine Rack retail stores is subject to regulatory approval.

Debbie Zimmerman, CEO of Grape Growers' of Ontario, said her organization is "cautiously optimistic about the move."

"What is important is we do see it as an investment in Ontario (through the teachers' fund), and I think that is very important," Zimmerman said in an interview. "That investment is critical for our long-term growth," she said. "It is a wait and see."

She said a "calming effect" is that Constellation's Jay Wright will be managing the new purchased entity.

Ontario Teachers' has said it will be partnering with Constellation Brands Canada's current management team, including CEO Jay Wright.

In a Monday news release, Grape Growers' chair Matthias Oppenlander described Constellation Brands "as a valuable player / partner for our growers."

"While it's far too early to know the exact market and public policy implications of this sale, there is no doubt that the sale of a business that so dominates the Canadian wine market is likely to have significant impacts on the industry as a whole," Oppenlander said.

"While we are cautiously optimistic this is a growth opportunity, we will be watching and listening carefully."

In an interview, Oppenlander said the situation is "almost like a homecoming for a Canadian wine company."

"It's a big vote of confidence for our industry ... it's exciting times," he said.

Based in Victor, N.Y., Constellation Brands is a publicly traded, international producer and marketer of beer, wine and spirits with operations in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, New Zealand and Italy.

Patrick Gedge — president and CEO at Winery and Grower Alliance of Ontario, said his organization has been aware of the process over the

course of the year and is "pleased that a new agreement has been made which will benefit both parties."

He said the alliance — whose members include Niagara wineries involved in the sale — "expect(s) the process to be completely seamless as we continue to work on public policy opportunities which will grow the entire wine and grape industry in Ontario."

Constellation Brands Canada is headquartered in Mississauga and operates three commercial wineries, five estate wineries, and 163 Wine Rack stores throughout Ontario.

Its portfolio of domestic and international wines includes such names such as Inniskillin, Jackson-Triggs, Kim Crawford, Robert Mondavi, Ruffino, Sawmill Creek and Wallaroo Trail.

"We're thrilled by the opportunity to acquire brands like these," said Deborah Allan, spokeswoman for the Teachers' plan. Allan noted the plan has been previous investors in the Ontario-based wine company Vincor International, later bought by Constellation.

"And we're very familiar with the region, the industry, with these brands."

While it's too early yet to get into details about future plans, Allan said "the acquisition itself is certainly a reflection in our confidence with these brands."

"We see growth opportunities, but as far as specifics, that will come with time."

Allan said the Canadian acquisition will be included in its private capital portfolio of consumer companies.

The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan is Canada's largest single-proportion pension plan, with \$17.1 billion in net assets as of the end of last year.

Constellation Brands said Monday it will continue ownership of Black Velvet Whisky and the related production facility in Lethbridge, Alta.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported many potential foreign and domestic bidders were interested in participating in Constellation's auction process.

In a Monday e-mail to *The Standard*, Constellation spokeswoman Amy Martin said the Canadian business to be sold "delivered strong financial performance in fiscal 2016 and they are a leader in the Canadian market." She otherwise referred to Monday's press release from Constellation confirming sale details.

Constellation Brands' Canadian wine business has about three times the market share of its closest competitor and seven of the top 20 wine brands in the domestic market.

A Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate Winery representative was away on vacation Monday and was not immediately available for comment.

donfraser@postmedia.com



ROB TYNGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK  
Inniskillin Winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake is part of the Constellation Brands that is being sold Monday.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/SPECIAL TO THE NIAGARA ADVANCE

The official ground-breaking ceremony for Diamond Estates Wine's retail facility took place last Wednesday morning. It will be in addition to the production facility on Niagara Stone Road.



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John Gall, Superintendent

# Ground-breaking for Diamond Estates retail facility

The official ground-breaking ceremony for Diamond Estates Wine's retail store took place last Wednesday morning. It will be in addition to the production facility on Niagara Stone Road.

"We are very excited to officially kick off this next wave of growth for the winery," said Murray Souter, President and CEO of Diamond Estates in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"We are thrilled to see our vision of a state-of-the-art tasting facility come to life. Our brands are amongst the most popular VQA wines in Ontario and our exciting new space will hopefully become an equally popular destination for our customers where we can continue to share our knowledge, expertise and love of wine with our guests in an inviting place."

Lord Mayor Pat Darte said the growth of the winery and the new facility is good for the Ontario wine industry and NOTL.

"Diamond Estates Wines' success is important to our community, and the new facility will serve to generate even more tourism revenues for this area," said Darte.

MPP Wayne Gates echoed

the Lord Mayor's comments, highlighting the significance of the Ontario wine industry and emphasizing the importance that all politicians, whether at the local, municipal, provincial or federal levels, get behind the industry.

"Every bottle of Ontario wine results in \$40 of contribution to the Ontario economy, whereas a bottle of imported wine contributes less than \$2," said Gates. "We need to support the industry every which way we can and I am pleased to be here to show my support and appreciation for everyone at Diamond Estates Wines for their success and growth. This new facility is very exciting for the region and all those that will visit."

When it opens in the spring of 2017, the facility will be named The Lakeview Wine Company, coincident with the 25th anniversary of Lakeview Cellars, one of the company's premier brands.

The new 3,000 square foot facility will feature a 28-foot and a 22-foot marble tasting bar surrounded by full height, continuous glass windows providing uninterrupted views of the vineyard and escarpment.

The building's exterior will be clad in cedar using the unique Japanese technique of Shou Sugi Ban, creating a charred cedar look with natural wood accents.

Thier and Curran Architects Inc. designed the wine tasting facility to be both modern and inviting, while incorporating some unique features to enhance the wine-tasting experience for visitors.

"The building form is simple but powerful. Conceptually, the building will create a unique sense of place, maximizing impact with rich, textured materials like exposed wood beams and steel columns. This project highlights the natural landscape, and combined with our attention to detail in design, will create a building amongst the vines that is decidedly modern, as well as warm and inviting," said Bill Curran, lead architect for the project.

The company operates two wineries in the Niagara region, producing VQA and blended wines under such well-known brand names as 20 Bees, East-Dell FRESH, Lakeview Cellars, Dois Amigos, Dan Aykroyd, Benchmark and Seasons.



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# Leading the growing pot market

RAY SPITERI

Postmedia Network

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Tweed Farms wants in on the federal government's plan to legalize recreational marijuana.

"We're keeping a close eye and trying to be active in that discussion," said Jordan Sinclair, spokesman for the medical marijuana production facility on Concession 5 Road that is licensed by Health Canada.

"They've opened up the possibility of submitting suggestions to the task force so that we can weigh in on what we think the regulation and the legislation should look like when they do get to tabling."

He said Tweed is also watching what other stakeholders are saying.

"We're the only G20 country in the world that's going

to be taking this on, so we think that it's a great opportunity."

In April, Health Minister Jane Philpott confirmed marijuana legalization laws would be introduced next spring, with the federal government later announcing a task force to study how regulation could work.

Sinclair said if legalization of recreational marijuana happens, Tweed's two facilities in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Smiths Falls will "definitely" pursue that market.

"The medical market is growing really, really quickly. We're actually ramping up the production in both of those facilities to be able to meet the demand," he said.

"We feel that we are in a really, really good position for the recreational space. Now it's just going to boil down to how much more capacity are we going to

have to add to be able to be a really big player in that market as well."

The Niagara-on-the-Lake operation began growing medical marijuana in just 35,000 square feet under glass in 2014. It then grew and was licensed to use up to 350,000 square feet for production, making it the largest legal marijuana growing operation in Canada, if not the world.

Earlier this year the operation reached the next step in its expansion, adding a separate 24,000 square foot building for post-harvest and storage.

Its completion allowed them to hire more staff.

About 50 people work at Tweed Farms, but that can double during harvest time, said Sinclair.

"Over the past couple of years, we've been incre-



MIKE DUBATISTA/NIAGARA FALLS REVIEW/POST MEDIA NETWORK

Legalizing recreational marijuana could be a benefit to Tweed Farms, a medical marijuana production facility in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

mentally enhancing all the licenses, so whether that's more grow rooms or more space — there's always just steps that we're taking forward," he said.

Sinclair didn't want to discuss the exact amount they think they can produce, but he said 350,000 square feet equates to "a number of football fields worth of production."

"At this point, we think that we can pull in one harvest more than we're currently licensed to produce by Health Canada," he said.

"We think that the capacity that we're capable of right now is many, many times more than we're currently licensed to produce."

The two facilities are in small towns — Smiths Falls is in eastern Ontario, with a population of about 9,000. Niagara-on-the-Lake's population is about 15,500.

"It's certainly a good boon for a small town to have a new employer, especially when it's growing at a rapid rate," Sinclair said.

"Then I think it's just about presenting the best product that we can. I think that there's going to be a number of competitors in the States that are going to be looking to do the same thing, but transitioning from medical to recreational is just going to be a multiplier on our business."

Asked about security concerns over the legalization of recreational marijuana, Sinclair said "one of the greatest things about the regulations

that we have is the security requirements. "We've got cameras, we've got motion sensors, lasers, all these other things to make it as secure as possible."

Sinclair said Tweed Farms is a combination of what one would expect from an agricultural facility, "in that we're growing in a very environmentally sustainable way" while using state-of-the-art technology.

"We've got rain-capture systems, we're using natural sunlight to grow the plants, but then we kind of pack on a lot of state-of-the-art technology as well," he said.

"We've got a process that's called tissue-culture cultivation, and what that basically means is you take the plant and splice it down almost to the molecular level, so that you can have genetically identical plants on a really broad scale."

"That helps us with consistency, which is really important in the medical market and I think will also transition over to the recreational market."

Sinclair said the facility has received support from the local chamber of commerce, and continues to reach out to other stakeholders.

"We have people in to tour the facility to get a sense of who we are, of what we're trying to accomplish," he said.

"I think that once you introduce yourself, you kind of break down that initial hesitancy that someone might have, (and) they

just look at you as a credible business and a market that's about to explode."

Mishka Balsom, chief executive officer of the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce, said Tweed Farms is "well positioned" to expand its production from medicinal to recreational marijuana.

After talking with company officials, she said the Niagara-on-the-Lake facility is "able to handle and work at a much greater output and capacity than what they currently are."

Balsom said most of Niagara is made up of Tweed Farms, but when they understand what the facility does, they're impressed.

"Most people are not really aware that this facility is actually right in our backyard. It was privileged enough to actually — have had a tour of the facility, and it's quite impressive."

She said the chamber hopes production facilities such as Tweed, as well as municipalities, will be part of consultations on legalization, regulation and restriction of recreational marijuana.

"Bringing the public and private sector forward. Let's get into the discussion ahead of time. It's not a question of legalizing or not. It was a federal government initiative, (the federal Liberals) ran on that platform, they said they would do it. It's just us getting ahead of the game."

rsplinter@postmedia.com  
Twitter: @RaySpiteri



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# Sore feet pay off

JULIE JOCSAK  
Postmedia Network

The click-clack of stilettoes was heard in the Pen Centre Saturday morning — stilettoes on the feet of about 250 men.

They were all taking part in Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, a fundraising event for women's shelter Gillian's Place.

"It's our signature event that helps to support our programs and services at Gillian's Place," said its community development manager, Nicole Regehr.

"We have to fundraise a half-million dollars every year to sustain our safe shelter." Money raised supports all programs offered on an outreach basis.

"Women that never stay a night in our shelter can still access outreach counselling," said Regehr. "Which helps a transition housing and support program which helps women transition into living independently from finding safe and affordable housing to transportation issues, employment."

"We have a full-time family law lawyer on staff which is really important for women who are contemplating leav-

ing because that is a lot of anxiety for them thinking about child support, property issues, things like that, so she can give advice and help alleviate those fears.

"And we have a crisis line, which is not only for women who need our services but for family and friends who are looking to get advice on helping a family member or friend."

A total \$90,000 was raised for the St. Catharines shelter this year, beating a goal of \$80,000 — which is a welcome relief over last year.

"Last year was a tough year for us, we ended up with \$60,000 and our goal was \$100,000," Regehr said. "It was a bit of an anomaly for us. We usually meet or exceed our fundraising target, so I'm happy to see everything re-energized this year."

We have a lot of new, great big teams so it's been a fun year watching the (fundraising) thermometer rise," she said. It was all thanks to the men who walked the talk.

"It's the sixth straight year that we have put a team together," said Marty Mako, whose team, the Stiletto Stallions, raised \$4,000, the highest amount raised by the team to date.

"We are just a group of friends that decided they want to get together once a year, start a tradition to do something good to help Gillian's Place," he said.

"I can't say we've improved at all but I can say that I have graduated from wedges to stilettoes," Mako quipped. "My first year I wore wedges and I was called a cheater so I've had to, since we've been called the stiletto stallions, to upgrade to pink stilettoes."

Derek Goar of Grimsby has reasons for participating, too.

"It's a birthday present for my wife. It's a cause that is very important to her," he said standing confidently in a Spider-man body suit.

"She had a goal and once she reached that goal I had to put this super suit on."

The goal was only \$100, but friends and family jumped at the chance to get Goar suited up superhero-style.

"It was only \$100 but really stirred people online to donate when I said, 'Once we reach our goal, he'll put that on,' and everyone wanted to see that," said Lauren Goar, Derek's wife. "Right away people were donating \$50, \$60 just to see him in the suit."



Bennett Brodie, 7 of Niagara Falls, does his part to Walk a Mile in Her Shoes. About 250 men and boys participated in the annual fundraiser for Gillian's Place, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes at the Pen Centre in St. Catharines on Saturday. The event is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the shelter and this year it beat a goal of \$80,000 and raised \$90,000.

Four-year-old Zack Potter took part in Saturday's walk as well, high-fiving his sister Jessica from atop his father's shoulder's after crossing the finish line.

"I got involved," said Bran-

dson Potter, Zack's father, "because I have a daughter and I want a place like this to be available to her if she ever needs it and family is not around to help her."

"I also have a son and I

want to set a good example for what I want him to grow up to be, and this is a good way to really do that. It's just a good cause all around."

jocask@postmedia.com

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# Billion-dollar racetrack proposal

RAY SPITERI

Postmedia Network

The Ontario government would provide horse-racing tracks such as Fort Erie a "20-year vote of confidence" if it gives the industry nearly \$1.6 billion in subsidies, says Jim Thibert, chief executive officer of the Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium.

The proposal — in addition to the \$700 million already pledged to the sector — was detailed in a draft plan obtained by Postmedia Network.

The government's consideration comes four years after then-premier Dalton McGuinty caused outrage when he cancelled the slots-at-racetracks program. That move ended \$347 million in annual support for purses and racetracks and devastated rural Ontario, where horse racing directly or indirectly employed more than 30,000 people.

Many breeders and trainers moved to the U.S. and tracks slashed dates, purses and staff.

The number of race days and purses declined by 35 per cent from the end of the slots program in March 2013 to March 2014, the auditor

general found.

"This is pretty much a 20-year vote of confidence for tracks and small tracks," Thibert said about the Liberals now mulling \$1.6 billion in additional subsidies for the industry.

"It's the premier saying the tracks that are here today, I want them here 20 years from now."

The draft plan presented by Ontario Racing, an arm's-length agency created to help horse racing adjust to a post-slots world, shows the province is considering a 17-year plan.

Starting after the current \$700 million subsidy ends in 2021, it would give the industry \$83.4 million annually. Ontario Racing was scheduled to launch consultations on the plan Thursday.

The plan could include a mix of government and other funding, perhaps from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp., but has yet to be approved by cabinet.

The new proposal, if accepted by the industry and cabinet, would roll out in three stages: an initial seven-year term followed by two five-year terms.

The hope is the sector will require less support over

time and become more self-sustaining.

To start, however, stakeholders are being told they will get \$93.4 million in annual funding to support tracks, and the money will flow through a new racetrack alliance.

The new organization will be led by Woodbine Entertainment Group and will set all race dates and purses across Ontario. All tracks that want to receive subsidies must join the alliance.

According to Ontario Racing, Woodbine would get \$2 million a year to run the program.

"All horse racing that exists today will be part of the alliance, and we understand we'll be parted to sharing in revenues that are part and parcel of this additional \$1.6 billion, or more," said Thibert.

He said he's not so concerned "the new formula, if controlled out of the Toronto area by Woodbine, won't be as beneficial to smaller tracks and communities like Fort Erie."

"There are only two thoroughbred tracks really in Ontario. And we've seen where Woodbine has, because of the shortage of horses, devoted



MIKE DONATIST/POST-MEDIA NETWORK

The Ontario government is considering giving the horse racing industry almost \$1.6 billion in additional subsidies. Tracks such as the one in Fort Erie would benefit from this proposal.

from a class A track, or maybe a B-plus track, lower, and are running the same kind of races that we run in Fort Erie for \$8,000, \$10,000, \$15,000, \$16,000," he said.

"That's just a travesty, but it's a result of the fact that none of us have enough horses, and we all have to generate revenues in order to keep running."

Thibert said this latest "vote of confidence" from the government will go a long way to put those at the heart of the horse racing industry "at ease."

The sector has waited for such a plan through four years of short-term funding pledges and a series of consultations.

"The fact is that this idea of two-year, three-year renewals is not working for the horse supply," said Thibert.

"The people who are involved in horse supply — the breeding and the raising of horses — they take huge risks and they have huge outlay year ahead of time."

"We've always talked, ever since the initial days of consultation with the (Premier Kathleen) Wynne administration, that we need to give these people who provide our product some type of level of confidence."

Thibert said the "real solution" to making horse racing a "vital industry" again is to bring confidence back to breeders and their market.

"Their marketplace is the people who are our suppliers. Our suppliers are people who bring trained horses to the track. But they're the marketplace for the breeders, and there's been this disconnect."

"I think as we complete our supply chain and as we evolve with the Ontario Lottery (and Gaming) Corporation into some much more sophisticated models for

raising revenues, that over time — I think in the near future — we'll see the tracks prosper. I think we'll see over the next three to five years, the horse supply start to dramatically increase."

In 2013 — less than a year after the slots program was cancelled — Wynne announced a five-year, \$400-million transition program for the industry.

The next year, the Liberals boosted it to \$500 million. Then in the 2015 budget, they promised another two years of funding, bringing the total to around \$700 million through 2021.

In 2012, the province projected cancelling the slots program would save the OLG more than \$1.4 billion, but the auditor found Ontario saved only \$326 million after paying to help the industry "transition."

Extending those payments well into the next two decades would erode any fiscal benefit of cancelling the slots program.

The cancellation of the slots program was a key part of a strategy — announced in 2012 and based on recommendations by economist Don Drummond — to bring more money out of gaming in Ontario.

At the time, the Liberals were banking on gaming bringing in billions more each year by 2018.

They projected OLG revenues would grow to nearly \$3 billion, from about \$1.7 billion, by the end of March 2018. Now according to the 2016 budget, the Liberals are expecting just under \$2 billion in OLG revenue by the end of March 2017.

The modernization strategy, which included holding more casinos across the province, has stalled, largely

because of local opposition.

"This government is not the government that caused the problems with horse racing," said Thibert, adding Wynne campaigned in her bid to succeed McGuinty on trying to support the horse racing industry.

"It's a little premature to be exact about things, but it's pretty clear that she has heard the industry, she has seen the success of the industry over the last four years since she has modified things, and put us back on track."

Niagara Falls LDP MPP Wayne Gates, a long-time supporter of the Fort Erie Race Track, said he hopes the government follows through on the \$1.6-billion plan.

"We all understand what caused the horse racing industry to go into chaos, and that was the short-sighted plan to end the slots in the racetrack program," he said.

"Transition funding has been important, and we've had transition funding that was extended until 2021. But the reality is that for the horsemen and the breeders and the communities, we needed to see a long-term funding commitment."

Gates said track officials put together a business plan they felt would help them become self-sufficient without taxpayer help in the future. He said in recent years the track has seen record days, with more million-dollar wagers than ever.

"A lot of that stems from the hard work that has been done by the employees, and obviously the managers group up there. We even had a \$2-million draw there this year. Food sales are up, program sales are up, betting is up."

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**Fort Erie's Finest SURVEY**

**New Categories added**

**It's that time of year again...**

cast your vote for Fort Erie's Finest 2016. This annual award is determined by you. Simply indicate your favourite person or business for each category listed below.

Deadline for entries is Thursday October 27<sup>th</sup> 2016. Once you've filled in your selections for Fort Erie's Finest, please tear out page and mail or drop off to The Fort Erie Times, 336 Central Ave., Fort Erie L2A 3T6.

No facsimiles or photocopies accepted. A minimum of 10 categories to be filled out in order to be accepted. Emails with "My Vote" in subject line to myra.robertson@sunmedia.ca by midnight October 27<sup>th</sup>. Only categories listed will be considered for awards

### Restaurants

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 Breakfast Special \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chicken \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chicken Wings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chinese Cuisine \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coffee \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dessert \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donuts \_\_\_\_\_  
 Drive-Thru \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family Restaurant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fish & Chips \_\_\_\_\_  
 French Fries \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gluten Free \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hamburgers \_\_\_\_\_  
 Healthy Alternatives \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Restaurant Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Subs \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sushi \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tacos \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vegan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wraps \_\_\_\_\_  
 Waiter/Waitress \_\_\_\_\_

### Bars

Bartender \_\_\_\_\_  
 Waiter/Waitress \_\_\_\_\_  
 Party Bar \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sports Bar \_\_\_\_\_

### Grocery Stores (Please Be Specific)

Bakery \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dairy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deli \_\_\_\_\_  
 Meat \_\_\_\_\_  
 Price \_\_\_\_\_  
 Produce \_\_\_\_\_  
 Selection \_\_\_\_\_  
 Seafood \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cheese \_\_\_\_\_  
 Specialty Items/Foods \_\_\_\_\_

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 Dance Studio/Classes \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Youth Sports Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

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 Chocolate Store \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clothing Store \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Women's Clothing \_\_\_\_\_  
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JOSEPH BIRRO/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

The Fort Erie Meteors defeated the Pelham Panthers 3-2 Saturday at the Fort Erie Leisurplex.

## Meteors win second game in a row

**SARAH FERGUSON**  
Fort Erie Times

Call Cirillo netted a goal in overtime to secure a 3-2 victory over the Pelham Panthers Saturday at the Fort Erie Leisurplex.

It was the second win a row for the team, and the Meteors improved their record 4-7 in the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League Golden Horseshoe Conference. The Panthers fell to 2-8-0-1 and remain in eighth place in the nine-team

"We had a slow start to the game but (the Meteors) stuck to the plan. The team improved as the game went on," head coach Todd Clayton said about the junior B action on the weekend. "We played a patient game due to only having 14 skaters. (Saturday) was a character game for us."

Pelham was outshot 48-35, including by a 16-9 margin in the third period.

"Goalending was there when we needed," Clayton said about

Meteors goal Shayne Battler, who recorded 36 saves.

Neither team excelled playing with the man advantage. The Meteors finished 1-for-6 on the power play; the Panthers, 0-for-6.

Cody Petawabano scored a single goal, and Cirillo scored two goals for the Meteors.

Joel Nagy and William Thompson scored single goals for Pelham.

[saferguson@postmedia.com](mailto:saferguson@postmedia.com)

## Junior B hockey sked

Fort Erie at Thorold, Thursday, Oct. 20, 7:07 p.m.; Ancaster at Fort Erie, Saturday, Oct. 22, 7:15 p.m.; Fort Erie at Buffalo, Tuesday, Oct. 25, 7 p.m.; Fort Erie at Pelham, Friday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.; St. Catharines at Fort Erie, Saturday, Oct. 29, 7:15 p.m.; Fort Erie at Caledonia, Monday, Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m.; Fort Erie at Ancaster, Thursday, Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m.; Caledonia at Fort Erie, Saturday, Nov. 5; Fort Erie at Niagara Falls, Friday, Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m.



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## Miscellaneous

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These positions will normally be 20-28 hours per week (but during peak times during Christmas as high as 40 hours). Candidates must be available for day time shifts, night shifts (until 9 pm), Saturdays & Sundays.

If you are interested in applying for a position, please drop a resume off at the customer service desk of Canadian Tire, Fort Erie **ASAP**.

Some positions may be temporary (until Christmas), while some may continue as permanent part-time into the New Year. Please state your availability time frame when handing in your resume. For example if you are interested in a short-term position until Christmas, please state this. If you are available into the Spring / Summer of 2017, please state this.

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a story that began in  
the early 1800's - the  
homestead house in  
Fort Erie was the  
boyhood home of  
General Sir  
General Ernest  
Cruikshank.

While serving, he  
wrote a number of  
books on the history  
of Ontario particularly  
its military history, and  
in 1958 he was  
seconded to the  
Public Archives of  
Canada as keeper of  
military documents. It  
is a known fact that  
his writings of the famous  
book "The War of  
1812" are some of the  
most accurate and  
authoritative writings on  
the war of 1812. The  
homestead house was  
also used for a period  
of time as a court  
house and the library  
where magistrates  
court was held.

This is only the first  
part of this remarkable  
historical home. The  
second part is the  
family that purchased  
the homestead and  
raised their family.  
The items kept at the  
original artifacts  
attached to the house  
visually restored it and  
added their own flare -  
the furniture many  
of which were part of  
the antique collection  
of the Secretary of State  
under Woodrow  
Wilson, including  
Coburn.

Including Louis XV  
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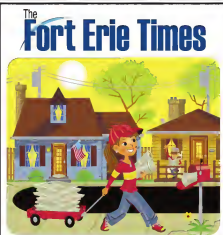
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Obituaries | In Memoriam | Thanks

Births | Celebrations | More

Coming Events

Coming Events

Coming Events

**HOLLY DAZE BAZAAR**  
Faith Reformed Church, 3605 Black  
Creek Rd., Stevensville from QEW  
take exit #12 Netherby Rd 25 East).  
Sat Nov. 5th 10:30 Baked goods, attic treasures,  
cabbage rolls (fruits), crafts, garden produce,  
preserves, kids corner, woodworking, lunch avail.  
Donations to food bank appreciated.

Coming Events

Coming Events

Obituaries

Obituaries

**FALL MARKET -  
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Sat. Oct. 29 10am - 1pm  
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& Much More

Birthdays

Birthdays



October 21, 2016  
Douglas Sims

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family

Obituaries

Obituaries

**SUMMERSVILLE, Charles** Douglas  
entered Heaven Thursday October 13,  
2016 beloved and best friend of Donna,  
loving father of Matthew (Rhonda) and  
Michael Summersville. Loving  
Stepfather to Michael (Ivana) Agrette.  
Brother to Larry (Dorothy) Summersville.  
Chartered brother-in-law of Debra Dye  
(Bob). Loving Grandfather to Matthew  
Summersville, Charize, McLean, and  
Darlan Agrette. Beloved Uncle to Laur-  
en Dye, Slorey (Mike) Brisson, Corey  
(Gabriella) Summersville and special  
parent to Naomi, Todd and Lillian. Dear  
long time friend to Chick Morrison.  
Charlie was born in Buffalo N.Y. Nov  
9, 1947. He was raised in Chippewa  
and resided in Fort Erie. He was a  
maintenance Welder for GM for 30  
years. He spent many hours in his gar-  
age rebuilding classic cars and  
enjoying a beverage or two with many  
indians. We will miss his sense of hu-  
mour, kindness, generosity and  
hospitality. A Memorial Service will take  
place 11 am, Wednesday October 26,  
2016 at Heartland Forest - Niagara  
Falls. In lieu of flowers, donations to  
the Brain Injury Association of Fort Erie  
or Kidney Foundation.

*A Loving Tribute*

**CANNON, Maurice Gordon (Moe)** -  
Of Stevensville, aged 79, passed away  
peacefully, surrounded by his loving family,  
at Douglas Memorial Hospital in Fort Erie  
on October 15, 2016. The Staff at Douglas  
Memorial could not have been any more  
compassionate to Moe and the family and  
our appreciation knows no bounds. Moe,  
Dad, Grandpa will be greatly missed by his  
wife of 56 years Pat, his children David,  
Dawn (Tim Fountain) and Michael  
(Vanessa) as well as his 6 grandchildren  
Ryan, Sean, Katelyn, Taylor, Riley and  
Eryn and brothers-in-law Bill Spencer and  
Dennis Spencer and their respective  
families. Moe was a long time employee of  
the Toronto School Board who retired to the  
Black Creek Senior Community. He was an  
ardent reader and avid pool player in the  
Community league right up until his  
passing. The foundation of our family is  
gone and words cannot express how much  
we will miss him. A memorial gathering will  
occur on Saturday, October 22, 2016  
between 1 - 3 pm at the BERNER  
FUNERAL SERVICES, 1105 Berner  
Avenue, Fort Erie for all his family and  
friends. In lieu of flowers, donations to the  
Alzheimer Society would be appreciated.

**VANDERWAAL, Frank Paul** - Frank  
passed away at the Greater St. Joseph's  
General Hospital on Sunday October 16th,  
2016 at the age of 60. Beloved husband of  
Gayle (nee Hardman). Proud father of  
Sonia Vanderwaal and Gabe, his late son  
(Rob Gibson). Cherished grandfather of  
Avery, Kirsten and Chase Claus and  
Froya and Rowan Gibson. Sadly missed by  
his brother Joe (Marie) and nephew Alan  
(Jenni) and niece Tanya as well as by  
sisters-in-law Karen Byng, Patricia  
Manning and their families. Predeceased  
by his parents Paul and Gail, his late sister  
law, Frank Hardman and mother-in-law  
Vera BERNER FUNERAL SERVICES,  
1105 Berner Ave., Fort Erie entrusted with  
arrangements. The family will receive  
friends on Wednesday October 19th from  
6-8 pm. Funeral services will be held in the  
Funeral Chapel on Thursday morning at 11  
o'clock. If so desired, donations to the  
Canadian Cancer Society would be  
appreciated by the family.

**LATOUP, Jeltje (nee Bosma)** -  
Beloved mother and Oma passed away  
peacefully surrounded by family at Douglas  
Memorial Hospital Tuesday, October 11,  
2016. Survived by her children Danielle  
Clark (Rich) and Eric Latoup, and her  
grandchildren Eryn, Connor, Hannah and  
Riley. Also survived by her sister Ellie  
Mirreles (Paul) and niece Mandy Mirreles.  
At her request a private service will be held  
at a later date at Ridgeway Memorial  
Cemetery. Special thanks to Dr. Scher and  
the wonderful staff at Douglas Memorial  
Hospital. In lieu of flowers please send  
donations to the CNA-HAUS.  
([www.niagarahealth.on.ca/en/douglas-memorial-hospital-donations-fort-erie](http://www.niagarahealth.on.ca/en/douglas-memorial-hospital-donations-fort-erie))  
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## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

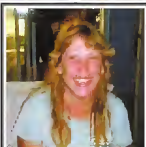
## In Memoriams

## In Memoriams

**CHAMBERS, Omond William** - On October 12, 2016 passed away peacefully with his family by his side at the age of 96. Loving husband of Florence for 72 years. Dear father of Sylvia (Fred) Ruth, Jean (Mark) Dugany, Alan (Margaret) Chambers, Carol (Charles) Keast, Larry (Patti) Chambers and Don (Lori) Chambers. Cherished grandfather at 13 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Predeceased by his parents William and Flossie Chambers, sister Helen Thomas, and great grandson William O'Malley. Omond served in the RCAP during WW II and worked at Ontario CBI for 41 years. He was a long time member of First United Church of Sherkston. Omond along with Florence, volunteered with many organizations, most recently 20 years with Meals on Wheels. **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES** entrusted with arrangements where the family received friends on Friday October 14th, from 2-4 and 7-9 pm. A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday at 2pm at First United Church 5244 Hwy 83 Sherkston. In lieu of flowers those who wish may make donations to Salvation Army or First United Church.

**LANCHESTER, Earl Thomas** - Passed away peacefully with his family by his side on October 12, 2016 at Welland General Hospital at the young age of 89. Predeceased by Wida, his loving and devoted wife of over 65 years. Dear father of Tom & Linda. He will be fondly remembered by Gerry, Rick and many loving friends from both sides of the border. Adored and loving grandfather of Stephanie (Jenail), Melanie, Thomas, Travis, and great-grandfather of Isha. Earl was a man of many talents. In his earlier years he was an accomplished trumpet player with his own 19-piece band. He then initiated a successful career in silk screening. Earl was a very well respected owner and trainer of thoroughbred race horses, enjoying many wonderful years of racing at various U.S. and Canadian tracks. His affection for horses was second-to-none. **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES**, Ridgeway entrusted with arrangements. In accordance with Earl's wishes, cremation has taken place. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Hurricane Earl & Twisting Wida will forever be dancing in the stars.

**SHERK, Benjamin Franklin** - Passed away peacefully surrounded by his family in his 94th year on Thursday, October 13, 2016 at Meadows of Dorchester. Beloved husband of Marjorie Sherk (nee Clinebaugh) for 89 years. Loving father of Susan Kirkham (George), Cynthia Mastrendra (Joe), Mary Jane Chicoiki (Mike), the late Thomas Sherk, Gerald Sherk, Daniel Sherk and Ronald Sherk. Cherished grandfather of Laura, Lisa and Alex Kirkham; John (Amber), Michael (Jenniffer) and Paul Mastrendra; Bradley Chicoiski and Michelle (Jarrett) Reaume. Great grandfather of Amelia, Matteo and Joseph Mastrendra, Dominic Mastrendra, Drusilla and Silas Reaume. Survived by his brother Raymond Sherk. Predeceased by brothers Donald and James. Benjamin will be fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Benjamin grew up and lived in the Stevensville-Black Creek area for many years before moving to Niagara Falls in 1980. Benjamin served in the Navy as a Radar Operator during WWII Battle of the North Atlantic. He retired from John Deere as a welder at the age of 60. He was an avid gardener and enjoyed simple country living. Family will receive friends at the **MORSE & SON FUNERAL HOME**, 5917 Main St., Niagara Falls, on Monday October 17, 2016 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. with a funeral service celebrating his life at 12 p.m. Interment will follow at Bertie Brotherton in Christ Cemetery. For those who wish, memorial donations to the Salvation Army - Niagara Falls, would be appreciated by the family. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at [www.morseandson.com](http://www.morseandson.com)



In Loving Memory  
**CAROL MALOTT (Latham)**  
October 19<sup>th</sup>

It's been 2 years already  
How time passes  
Still sadly missed by all  
Love Mom & brothers & sisters  
Gone But Never Forgotten

In Loving Memory of  
**MILTON MILLER**  
June 01, 1931 - October 24, 2013

As I loved you, so I miss you  
In my memory you are near  
Loved, remembered, longed for always,  
Treasured with a love sincere.  
You are where I cannot see you,  
And your voice I cannot hear,  
Yet I know you walk beside me,  
Never absent, always near

Miss you  
Ginny Miller and Family

In Memoriam

A tribute to those we loved and lost



**FLETT, John Jack** - Passed away Oct. 11 at Maple Park Lodge in his 88th year. Cherished father of daughter Arlin (Brian) Miller and son Michael (Barbara) Flett. Devoted "Pope" to granddaughters Emily and Alexis Miller (Lak Ridgeman). Predeceased by the love of his life, Frances (1997) son Richard (1982), and sister Jessie Morris. Survived by sisters Margaret Pasnik, Edna Danyluk and their families. Jack was employed for 35 years at Canada Customs in Ft Erie until his retirement in 1988. Jack was very outgoing with a quick wit and slyly happy personality. He was a very good golfer both locally and on excursions to South Carolina. He will be missed by family and friends a great deal but never forgotten. Many thanks to Dr. Scher and staff at Maple Park Lodge for the care that they provided when he visited. Cremation has taken place. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Niagara Funeral Alternatives. Jack's final farewell will take place Friday October 21st at MacAfee Cemetery, Thompsons Pt., Fort Erie at 11am for anyone wishing to attend.

**WELLS, Daryl J.** - January 24, 1960 - October 13, 2016. Peacefully with his family at his side at Rouge Valley Health System on Thursday October 13, 2016, in his 57th year. Sadly missed by the love of his life, Joyce. Proud father of Brandon (Ashley) Wells. Cherished stepfather of Cheryl (V/ao) Brigantino, Angela (Joe) Adams, Laurie (Gary) Bain and Christopher (Emily) Passero. Beloved grandfather to Dominique, Alexander, Allisia, Brooklyn, Ruby and best friend Liah (coconut). Deeply missed by sister Wendy (Kevin) Nagymatin, nephew Kiefer, stepdaughter Dana, stepmother Marian Wells, and stepfather Jim Ward. Predeceased by mother Mary and father Daryl Sr. Daryl Jr. always wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and he did. His late father, Daryl Sr., was a race announcer from the late 1950s until the mid 80s, and was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in August 2016. Daryl Jr. started calling races at the Fort Erie Race Track as a 18-year-old in 1976, making him one of, if not the youngest race callers at a recognized track ever in North America. His unforgettable voice was synonymous with the track, as it echoed out of the speakers for 34 years before he stepped aside as race announcer in 2010. He was also the track's spokesman. Beyond the horse-racing industry, those who met Daryl Jr. came to know him for the genuine, down-to-earth, caring, professional, knowledgeable, and community-oriented human being that he really was. He was the real deal, a great man with tremendous character and a big heart. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him. If so desired, donations to the Ronald McDonald House Charities would be greatly appreciated by the family.

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Thomas Campbell





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